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Stray Bullets and 'Mushrooms': Random Shootings of Bystanders in Four Cities, 1977-1988

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Stray Bullets and 'Mushrooms':

Random Shootings of Bystanders in Four Cities, 1977-88

Abstract

Bystanders killed by bullets not specifically intended for them have long been a very small part of the homicide problem. But the frequency of press accounts of such killings and woundings has apparently increased nationally in recent years. To test this impression, we compiled all shootings of bystanders hit "at random" and reported in the published indexes of the New York and Los Angeles Times and the Washington Post for 1977-88, as well as a key word computer search of stories in the Boston Globe. We found a rapid increase in both bystander woundings and killings since 1985 in all four cities. The base rate was quite small, and total bystander deaths appear to comprise less than one percent of all homicides in these cities. Nonetheless, the numbers were large enough to show that most bystanders reported shot in New York and Los Angeles are victims of random shootings into crowds, rather than single stray bullets striking a lone individual "mushroom." The reverse was true in Boston and Washington, with the effect of much lower rates of bystanders reported shot in those cities.

Key Words: Homicide, bystanders, shootings, trends

A "mushroom" is street slang for an innocent bystander who "pops up" in the path of fire, catching a bullet intended for someone else (Hevesi, 1989). The very existence of the term--apparently derived from the mushrooms featured in the Super Mario Brothers Nintendo video game--suggests enough frequency of the event to justify quantitative inquiry. How common are such shootings and killings? Have they increased in number in recent years? If so, is the increase merely temporary, or indicative of wider changes in the nature of stranger violence in urban America?

1. The Significance of Bystander Shootings

Most homicide studies trace murder to relationships or lifestyle. Wolfgang (1958: 207), for example, found that 65 percent of 550 homicide victims in Philadelphia were related to or emotionally involved with their murderers. Similarly, Wilbanks (1984:35) found that 67.5 % of a sample of Miami murder victims were family members, acquaintances, crime partners or sex partners of their murderers. In recent years, much homicide has been labeled as "drug-related," and hence attributable to lifestyle choices of the victim. Such homicides are assumed to arise out of relationships and transactions the victims entered voluntarily, with full knowledge of the risks of violence as a feature of such decisions.

Bystander murders, in contrast, can strike "totally innocent" victims, people who just happened to be in the wrong place at the wrong time (Rosenthal, 1983). Such innocence is often symbolized by the extreme youth of the decedents, such as the four year old boy shot in drug deal crossfire as he played in the courtyard of his Brooklyn housing project (N.Y. Times, June 8, 1988, p. B2), the two year old killed in drug dealers' crossfire in

his apartment hallway (N.Y. Times, December 22, 1984, p. A27), the four year old boy in Los Angeles hit four times in a spray of automatic rifle fire during a "drive-by" shooting in a gang war over cocaine traffic (Reinhold, 1988), or the three year old boy wounded when a drug dealer grabbed him to use as a shield during a gun battle (Kurtz, 1989).

A bystander's innocence can be symbolized by the medical condition of the victims, such as the Dade County man in a wheelchair who was killed in the crossfire of a drug battle (Kurtz, 1989), or the pregnant bystander killed by a stray bullet in a neighbors' dispute (N.Y. Times, Aug. 20, 1987, p. B9).

Innocence can also be symbolized by stray bullets from outside penetrating a home environment, such as a Washington woman killed while standing at her kitchen sink washing dishes (Hevesi, 1989), a Washington man shot while lying in bed (Washington Post, January 13, 1989, p. C1), the Bronx woman killed while lying in bed near her sister's baby son when gang members raked the building with 15 bullets (Rosenthal, 1988), the four-year old girl wounded by a stray bullet from outside while lying asleep in a Bronx apartment (N.Y. Times, Oct. 31, 1985, p. B2), or the Washington man shot talking to a neighbor on a front porch when one man started shooting wildly at four others fleeing him a block away.

Innocence can be further symbolized by a stray bullet penetrating other "safe" places with religious associations, such as the Los Angeles church choir member killed when a stray bullet entered the sanctuary during the church service (L.A. Times, March 25, 1987, p. 21), the two Coney Island girls wounded in a Bible study class in a private apartment when a young man started to shoot at random from a rooftop, and the 5-year old boy killed by

a stray bullet entered his apartment on Christmas day (N.Y. Times, December 31, 1987, p. B4).

The significance of such killings is to lend far greater seriousness to the public definition of the crime problem. The 60,000 respondent National Survey of Crime Severity (Wolfgang, et al, 1985), for example, suggests that such killings rank at the top of public outrage. While respondents were not offered a scenario for random shootings of bystanders, there are two scenarios for bombing deaths in a public building, one with 20 victims and one with a single victim. Both scenarios fit the more general category of innocent bystanders getting killed, and both scenarios are rated as more serious crimes than a specifically intended robbery victim getting murdered after a struggle (Wolfgang, et al, 1985: vi).

Like terrorism, bystander murders are even more unexpected than such stranger to stranger street crime as robbery. Bystander deaths violate the routine assumptions necessary for conducting daily life. With enough frequency, they can render otherwise "normal" life, even in a high crime neighborhood, as more like life in Beirut--where up to 50 mortar shells a minute have fallen in some neighborhoods (Boustany, 1989)--or in Belfast or other perennial civil war zones. The conditions of daily life in Chicago's Henry Horner Homes public housing project, for example, feature so much routine gunfire that it shapes the conduct of daily life; children routinely view dead bodies, and often fall to the floor inside their own homes to avoid stray bullets (Kotlowitz, 1987). News accounts of public housing projects in Boston (Fulham, 1989) and Washington (Horwitz and Wheeler, 1989) also quote residents describing a pattern of nightly gunfire.

A transformation of street crime from a phenomenon of individually

intended victims to one of accidental or chance victims is a frightening prospect. It demonstrates that criminals no longer follow the rules of combat we expect them to follow: limiting violence to intended targets, and not recklessly endangering innocent bystanders. We may not expect honor among thieves, but we do expect some honor among killers.

Traditional gangland executions, even in public places, appear to be carefully planned to avoid killing of innocent bystanders. In the course of this analysis, our review of Mafia executions in New York during 1977-88 found only one incident in which an apparently innocent bystander was shot. But juvenile drug gangs often take a brazen delight in risking, or even aiming in the general direction of, innocent bystanders--consistent with their reported values of showing how mean a "badass" the shooter really is, with no concern for babies or other total innocents (Katz, 1988: 80-113).

An alternative theory is that gang war has adopted the "civilian target" approach to warfare, just as World War II adopted this innovation in real war through bombing of cities. In Los Angeles, for example, the drive-by shooting pattern in the first quarter of 1988 contributed to a total of 82 "gang-related" killings, with "many of the victims bystanders" (Reinhold, 1988).

Whatever the reason, any bystander killing symbolizes a dramatic extremity of the crime problem. An increase in such killings, even as a small portion of all homicide, suggests a threat of spillover of street violence from the underclass to the middle and upper classes.

The spillover to the middle class was illustrated in a 1988 Los Angeles murder of a young professional woman caught in a crossfire between rival gangs in the affluent Westwood entertainment area near the UCLA campus (New

York Times, April 10, 1988, p. A 27), which provoked Los Angeles police to undertake massive arrest "sweeps" in gang neighborhoods (Cockburn, 1988).

The spillover to the upper class was illustrated by Senator Mark Hatfield's encounter with a gun battle while waiting in his car at a stoplight six blocks from the U.S. Capitol (Gaines-Carter, 1989). The reaction to that event (as well as the general increase in shooting deaths in Washington in 1988-89) included a Congressional proposal to federalize the city police. The threat of such spillover clearly changes the character of the crime problem, and its level of priority on the public policy agenda.

2. Defining Bystander Shootings

Bystander victims have long been a feature of robberies, as well as some simultaneous mass murders (Levin and Fox, 1985), primarily those in public places (as distinct from family massacres). But the character of random murders of bystanders, as well as the nature of the perpetrators and situational motives, appear to be quite different from the traditional mass murderer. The Fox and Levin (1985) profile of simultaneous mass murders and murderers is a single explosion of a long pent-up hostility, a virtually suicidal climax to a life of largely repressed anger. Most of the murderers in that profile appear to be white, male and middle class. Many had no prior police record.

Bystander murders in underclass communities appear to be committed by people who have been criminally active for some time before the killings. Very often, the killings seem to be a byproduct of attempting to accomplish some other economic or personal goal. The innocent victims merely "pop up" like mushrooms in the accomplishment of those goals, rather than being

specifically intended targets of the murderers. Unlike simultaneous mass murder, a bystander victim is not always the intended target, and the killing is not expected to put an end to the killer's own life at liberty. Few traditional simultaneous mass murderers have attempted to escape. Bystander killers almost always escape, and can justifiably view shooting without regard to bystanders as a low risk enterprise.

The economic goals leading to bystander murders include battles over drug market territory, punishment of those who break contracts to pay for drugs, or retaliation against drug dealers for selling low quality products at high prices. Non-economic, but still specific, goals include retaliation for being ejected from an after-hours club (Marriott, 1989), continuation of arguments between partycrashers and invited guests (Waite, 1989), or retaliation for what was interpreted as a hostile stare (Dash, 1989). In one Milwaukee case, a girl had attended a party hosted by gang members who checked all guests at the door with metal detectors. Rejected guests later had a shootout with the gang members on the street while the girl was going home; she died in the crossfire (Lynn, 1989).

But instrumental goals are not necessary for a definition of random bystander murder. If there is a basic distinction between mass murder and random bystander killings--about which opinions may differ--it is that the bystanders are not selected by the murderer as specifically intended victims. This distinction is very clear in situations of crossfire or stray bullets traveling some distance. It is less clear when drug dealers spray a rival's apartment building with bullets. The distinction is also less clear when patrons return to a club from which they had been ejected, and shoot at other patrons in revenge against the club. Including such cases in

"bystander" murders clearly risks overlap with such mass murderers as the 1984 San Diego McDonald's killer. Yet there is arguably an important boundary between them.

Traditional mass murderers apparently aim at individuals, not crowds. Even the San Diego McDonald's killer systematically attempted to kill each person still alive in the restaurant while he stood off police. The underclass bystander murderer shows no such focus on individual targets. He either shoots at an assassination target in the middle of a crowd, hitting the wrong person (Moehringer, 1989), or sprays an entire crowd with bullets as an act of intimidation or revenge, rather than systematic execution of each individual.

Thus we can define random murders of bystanders as shootings of persons with bullets not intended for them as individuals -- either with bullets aimed at someone else in particular, bullets aimed at no one (as in bullets fired into the air), or with bullets aimed at a crowd of persons or stream of automobile traffic without individual targets. We can further define them as byproducts of shooting as a routine activity, rather than as a single event in the lifetime of the murderer. Both these factors may distinguish bystander murders from simultaneous mass murders, regardless of the number of victims. Whether or not such a distinction is valid, however, does not affect the present findings; even if there is overlap, it is the bystander phenomenon we attempt to measure.

The bystander definition was operationalized in the present study by a number of coding rules. We decided that the definition excludes sniper attacks on pedestrians, shootings of robbery victims, drivebys in which a single (presumably intended) person is shot, shootings of persons based on

mistaken identity, and customers shot during commercial robberies, unless it is clear that they were hit with bullets aimed at someone else. It also excludes persons heroically intervening to protect someone else from being shot or robbed, since an intervener clearly elevates his or her risk by shifting roles from bystander to participant. It excludes shootings from one car to another, since cars traveling the same speed provide an opportunity to take aim at an individual.

But the operational definition includes sniper attacks on a moving stream of automobile traffic, driveby shootings at groups, and pointblank shooting into a crowd, since it is virtually impossible to control where a bullet will land in such circumstances.

Such intentional shootings at groups can generally be distinguished from the other major category of bystander shootings, those caused by stray bullets which arrive from a distance or an unknown point of origin. The distinction is more difficult to operationalize when the intended target of a stray bullet is standing in a crowd, and the odds of hitting a bystander are very great. Nonetheless, wherever the information about the intended target is available, it seems important to distinguish a stray bullet aimed at a different person from indiscriminate shooting into a crowd. In the former case, from the shooter's perspective, the bystanders simply don't matter. In the latter case, the bystanders are the target, although collectively rather than individually, as a representation of some group the shooter subjects to social control (Black, 1982). There is admittedly an inherent unreliability in making this distinction, since a "crowd" shooting will be a residual category for all shootings involving crowds unless police or reporters have discovered an intended individual target of the shooting.

Yet it is worth making the distinction on symbolic grounds, since someone hit by a stray bullet may appear to be more "truly innocent" than someone in a crowd.

The definition of "innocence," in fact, is the most difficult conceptual and operational issue in studying this phenomenon. It is often impossible even for police to determine the exact nature of the relationship between persons shot and the shooters. What may appear to be no prior relationship may in fact be a hidden relationship, or a connection unknown to the victim--such as an unintended insult at which the shooter took offense. When a group of people standing on a street corner are sprayed by bullets from a passing car, it is usually impossible to tell from a news index, and often from a police report, how many of those persons were innocent of any provocation of the shooters.

Our operational definition was to count everyone, unless the index specifically said that X person (s) was the target and Y others were bystanders. Even then, of course, the bystanders could have been friends or gang members, and hence not really "just like you or me." But if by chance we had been walking past that corner, we could have caught a random bullet just the same.

3. Estimating Bystander Shooting Trends

Bystander shootings are a rare event. Estimation of trends in rare events poses several difficulties. One is that a large number of "normal" cases must be reviewed in order to produce one rare event. A second is that record keeping systems do not always report all the facts needed to classify rare events. For example, coroner's death certificates often omit the

information that a death was caused by legal intervention of police, simply reporting the death as a homicide (Sherman and Langworthy, 1979). Similarly, aggravated assault and murder reports could omit the bystander nature of the victimization.

The most thorough method for studying trends in bystander shootings would probably be to review the narrative reports filed on homicides and aggravated assaults, in the tradition of many other homicide studies. These narratives could be classified according to the definition employed above: whether the victim appeared to be individually selected, or was a haphazard result of a decision merely to shoot. Absent substantial funding, however, the low yield of this method makes it impractical.

The most efficient method for studying bystander shooting trends is a review of an index of newspaper accounts. An index summarizes the key information elements needed for the classification, making it possible to undertake such a study without a major commitment of resources. Since no official data conveniently available for secondary analysis (such as the FBI Supplemental Homicide Report tapes) includes data on the bystander status of the victims (Hevesi, 1989), there seems to be no other alternative to an exhaustive review of police reports.

The efficiency of a news index study is enhanced by editorial policies in big cities which omit reporting many "routine crimes." Such policies can generally be relied upon, however, to include sensational crime stories. All the evidence suggests that bystander murders, and to a lesser extent bystander killings, have been equally sensational for the past decade or so. A recent column by the man who had been the executive editor of the New York Times during much of that period shows his strong personal outrage over such

killings (Rosenthal, 1988), which seems unlikely to have changed during that period, although other editors clearly participated in the decision-making process.

There is admittedly a shared consensus among senior editors about what is important news (Gans, 1979: Chapter 5). The factor most subject to short-term change in story suitability may be a sense that the story has been covered too often, and that fresh issues should be reported. This may be most important with proactive reporting in the front pages, however. Shootings and murders tend to be small filler stories written reactively by junior journalists, at least in large cities. The "crime beat" grinds on, year in and out, despite changing news agendas about presidents and foreign policy.

If anything, there is a danger that press accounts would tend to suppress any increase in bystander shootings. What is a novel, rare event has a better chance of getting reported than something that becomes much more routine. With the dramatic increase in gang shootings in Los Angeles, for example, it appears that the L.A. Times left many bystander shootings unreported. Police references to the problem cite much larger numbers than we obtained by taking a census of news stories.

Press accounts will certainly provide underestimates of bystander shootings. The important question is not their validity, but their reliability. If they roughly indicate the direction of the volume of the phenomenon, then they are worth analyzing. And as a rare event, they seem likely to remain newsworthy until their volume increases to the point of "saturating" editorial interest.

It therefore seems unlikely--although possible--that editorial policies

about bystander killings could have changed over the 1977-88 time period. This assumption is plausible enough to warrant a pilot study of several news indexes to see if a larger study of official records is warranted. Alternatively, a news index study could suggest how official record keeping might be changed, to make future estimates of such trends more reliable.

4. Methods

We selected three cities based on the availability of newspaper indexes (Washington) and their size (New York and Los Angeles). The fourth city was selected opportunistically, when a Boston Globe reporter interviewing the senior investigator agreed to have his morgue conduct a computer search for all stories with the relevant key words.

We examined the New York Times index under "Shootings" and "Murders and Attempted Murders" for 1977 through 1988 (limiting our review to the "New York City" subsection for the years in which the index was organized that way). We reviewed the Los Angeles Times index under shootings (1977-88), "murders" and "murder cases" (1977-85), and "Murders and Attempted Murders" (1986-88). We reviewed the Washington Post index under "murder", "murder and attempted murder", and "murder and attempted murder--Washington, D.C.", also depending on the year.

We identified every story that appeared to have a victim of a random shooting, as defined above. Since these stories also included accounts of bystanders wounded but not killed, we included a separate count of these as well. The number of persons shot and the number of shooting incidents were tabulated separately.

As the work progressed, the distinction between stray bullets and shots

fired into a crowd emerged, and all shootings were classified by that dichotomy. Each index was reviewed separately by the senior investigator and one junior investigator. The senior investigator classified each case as "stray bullets" or "crowd shooting."

5. Reliability of Indexing

The New York Times index gave the most consistently clear descriptions throughout the sample period. It offered enough information on each story to make fairly clear coding decisions. The amount of information and the indexing format remained essentially unchanged for all 11 years.

The same can be said for the Boston Globe computer search of the complete text of the newspaper back to October, 1977. The key words of "Boston", "Innocent", "Bystander" and "Shot" produced the expected number of irrelevant stories, including murder suspects pleading "innocent" and basketball players who took a "shot" at the basket. There was no apparent change in the organization of the data retrieval system throughout the study period. Any unreliability in the New York and Boston estimates, then, should be solely a result of editorial policy, and not a result of changes in indexing policy.

The same cannot be said of the other two indexes. The Washington Post provided about the same amount of information on homicides, but until 1982 the "murder" section merely provided a cross-reference list of all murder victims reported on by name. Absent a review of each of those separate index listings (which we did not do), it was impossible to code the stories. For one sample year (1980), we reviewed all the cross-referenced stories, finding no bystander shootings. From 1982 on, all of the homicides were

summarized under the murder section of the index. Even then, the summaries were very brief, and not as informative as the New York Times summaries.

The Los Angeles Times never cross-referenced murder stories by victim name, but it did use the "headline-only" method from at least 1977 to 1985. In 1986 the index switched to the New York Times format, providing 25 word summaries of the key facts from each story. The timing of this switch was unfortunate for our purposes, since there was a rapid increase in gang violence at about the same time. The rapid increase reported even after the indexing change, however, means that the observed trend cannot be explained away by the change in indexing.

What is possible in Los Angeles, however, is an increased editorial sensitivity to bystander shootings at the beginning of the gang violence problem, and a decreased emphasis on that subject as time went by. The word bystander does not even appear in the index of murder and shooting stories until about 1983, and the first "driveby" shooting was not indexed until 1984. The declining sensitivity after the increase in such reports (based on police statements), however, merely understates the steep trend found in any of the cities reviewed.

6. Findings

We found substantial increases in reported bystander killings and woundings in all four cities. We also found differences among the cities in the nature of the increases.

6.1. New York. New York shows a slight decline in total bystander shooting reports from the late seventies to the early eighties (Table 1). It then

shows a dramatic increase beginning in 1985 and continuing into early 1989. There were more bystanders reported shot in the first quarter of 1989 than there were in the first two years of the decade. From 1984 to 1988, the total bystanders reported hit more than tripled, and the total bystander shooting incidents reported doubled.

The disparity between incidents and persons hit reflects the major source of the increase: wild shooting into crowds rather than single stray bullets going astray. Table 2 shows that aggregating the data over three year periods produces virtually no difference in incidents or persons hit by stray bullets from the first period to the last. The number of persons shot in crowds, however, increased ninefold, and the number of crowd shooting incidents increased fivefold. Since more persons are hit per incident, on average, in crowd shootings (3.43) than by stray bullets (1.3), even a small increase in crowd shootings incidents could increase the total persons hit. But crowd shootings were both more injurious and more frequent.

6.2. Los Angeles. A similar pattern appears in Los Angeles (Table 3). Perhaps because it is a lower density city than New York, or perhaps because it indexed only headlines until 1986, we were unable to detect any bystanders reported shot until 1983. But from that point on, the majority of both the incidents and the persons shot were classified as shootings into crowds. This phenomenon has become such a routine aspect of gang conflict, in fact, that by 1988 Los Angeles had more reported crowd attacks than New York, with 40% more people shot, despite having less than half the population of New York. Eighty-three percent of the total bystanders reported shot in L.A. were in crowds, compared to 70% in New York.

For incidents, however, the proportions are reversed. Sixty-four percent of all reported bystander shooting incidents in New York were crowd attacks, compared to only 56 percent in Los Angeles. This difference reflects the fact that the Los Angeles crowd shooters hit more persons per incident (4.5) than in New York (3.4). It may also reflect a difference in editorial policy, in which Los Angeles papers provided more detail about the motives of the shooting and specific persons aimed at, causing crowd incidents to be more likely to be classified as stray bullet incidents.

Nonetheless, the rate of reported bystanders shot per capita is almost twice as high in Los Angeles as in New York. For the 1986-88 period with comparable indexing procedures, 105 persons in L.A. (Table 4) and 120 persons in New York (Table 2) were reported shot. This converts to an annual rate of 1 shooting per 94,000 persons in L.A., compared to 1 per 175,000 persons in New York. The reported bystander homicide rate is more than twice as high in L.A. at 1 per 230,000 compared to 1 per 700,000 in New York. L.A.'s bystander killing rate in 1986-88 was higher than the total homicide rates in many small communities, such as Sulphur Springs, Texas, a 15,000 resident community with two homicides from 1953 to 1987, or 1 per 255,000 per year.

6.3. Boston. With a much smaller population, we expect to find many fewer bystander incidents in Boston than in the two largest cities in the nation. The greater thoroughness and consistency of the method of identifying the stories makes it a particularly strong test of the argument that such shootings have increased. Table 5 shows that stories in the Boston Globe with the selected key words have definitely increased, and continued to do

so at a high rate in the first month of 1989, just as in New York. Moreover, the Boston data confirm the initial working hypothesis: that it was almost unheard of for bystanders to be shot a decade ago. The Boston data do not reject the editorial policy hypothesis, but they do reject the changed and incomplete description indexing hypotheses.

What is striking about Boston, however, is that there were only 2 crowd shootings out of the total of 9 incidents and 13 bystanders shot in the 12 year period. Boston does not seem to have adopted the same pattern of wild shooting into groups that occurs in L.A. and New York. The result is a much lower annual per capita rate of bystanders reported shot from 1986-88: 1 per 287,000 persons, compared to 94,000 in L.A. and 175,000 in New York. These estimates, however, are highly unstable due to the small numerator and large denominator.

6.4. Washington. The Washington data (Table 6) are important because of the rapid increase in total homicides, and allegedly drug related homicides, in the highly visible nation's capitol. Both trends would lead one to expect a rapid growth in bystander shooting stories, and editorial policy would probably be to publicize them prominently. Yet like Boston, they reveal almost no wild shooting into crowds. The limitation of such shootings to stray bullets produces the second lowest annual per capita bystander shooting rate of the four cities for 1986-88 after Boston: 1 per 183,000.

To be sure, the numbers of bystanders reported shot almost tripled in 1986-88 compared to the previous three year period. But the numbers are so small that, as in Boston, it could be mere random fluctuation. What lends more credence to the data as an indication of changing crime patterns is

that it is consistent with three other cities. What lends more gravity to both the Boston and Washington data is that their increases are in stray bullets, which imply more "truly innocent" victims than the crowd shootings. We may know how to stay away from teenage crowds, but it is hard for a U.S. Senator to know which streets he should not drive down within a few blocks of the capitol.

6.5. Places of Occurrence. The descriptions of the locations of the shooting incidents were not detailed enough for analysis in the Washington and Los Angeles data. But the New York and Boston data suggest that there is a criminology of place (Sherman, Gartin and Buerger, 1989) to bystander shootings. While it is the sense that "it could happen to anybody, anywhere" that makes bystander shootings so scary (Reuter, quoted in Hevesi, 1989), the locations of random bullets appear to be anything but random. The concentrations in underclass neighborhoods appear quite strong. But even within those neighborhoods, certain kinds of locations predominate.

The largest single category of location is a center of entertainment, defined broadly to include bars, nightclubs, parks, eating places, sports events, and parties. In Boston, 5 out of 12 incidents with locations given were entertainment centers. In New York, 28 of 91 (31%) incidents with locations given were entertainment centers. These numbers are even more impressive when we recall the relatively small proportion of any community's land devoted to such locations, compared to the much larger proportion comprising residences and streets. It is the places with the largest concentrations of people which seem at greatest risk of such shootings. This is obvious in the sense of providing more potential targets, but

theoretically relevant to the extent that shootings may be motivated by the thrill of acting out a drama in front of a large potential audience.

7. Explaining The Trends

Assuming that bystander shootings are increasing rapidly, how can we account for the fact? The present analysis cannot possibly test any theories, but it can suggest some.

7.1. Drug Market Conflicts. One theory of bystander killings is that they result from increased violence in the drug markets (Reuter, quoted in Hevesi, 1989). With more shooting battles over turf, more bullets enter public and private space, catching more bystanders. This notion fits the facts in Washington and Boston, where stray bullets predominate. But it does not seem to fit the rapid rise in crowd shootings in New York and L.A. For even though many of the L.A. driveby shootings may be motivated by drug market conflicts (Reuter, 1989: 6), it is not clear that all or even most of them are. Gangs may use violence against each other and compete for drug market share, but this correlation does not prove causation. Moreover, in New York many of the crowd shootings appear to be more just a matter of face and vengeance, without any clear link to drug conflicts.

To the extent that these shootings are the result of market conflict, it is interesting to contrast them with prohibition shootings. When the illegal liquor market depended on the favor of politicians to protect the more easily detected sales of a far more bulky commodity from police enforcement, liquor dealers were careful not to allow unnecessary violence (Reuter, 1989). To the extent that drug dealers do not depend upon

corruption to operate, there is less cost to being careless about shooting bystanders.

7.2. Crack-Induced Paranoia. Another theory could explain the trends in both stray bullets and crowd shootings. Bestemann (1989) has suggested that crack users suffer a higher level of paranoia, causing them to become extremely sensitive to any perceived disrespect. This can provoke retaliatory shootings to defend their honor, to the point of disregarding any bystanders.

This view is supported by the first person account of one incarcerated drug dealer who unintentionally shot an innocent bystander when he was 17 years old. The dealer, a Jamaican immigrant (and many-time robber) who had been in the U.S. since age 10, was walking with two colleagues and two girlfriends on the way to a Popeye's in Northwest Washington. Two young men from the neighborhood were on the opposite side of the street. They caught eye contact with the drug dealer, and exchanged hostile stares--with apparently no prior reason for the hostility, just a chance facial expression. The dealer challenged the others to fight, and insults were exchanged. The dealer ran to his car, pulled two guns from the trunk, and ran back to the other young men, whose number had grown to four. The dealer started shooting, and continued firing as the opponents went under cars for cover. One shot hit a bystander in the leg.

The problem with this theory is that it suggests more bystander shootings where the use of crack is higher. Since New York has a higher rate than Washington, but lower measured use of crack among arrestees (National Institute of Justice, 1988), it seems difficult to account for

bystander shooting increases with crack alone. Nonetheless, reported bystander shootings increased rapidly in both cities at about the time that crack was introduced (late 1980s).

7.3. Proliferation of Weapons and Automatic Weapons. Another theory might be an increasing availability of weapons. But that would presumably imply an increase in bystander shootings as a constant proportion of the homicide rate. The data suggest that is not the case, with bystander shootings rising far more rapidly than the homicide rates in all four cities.

What makes more sense, if it is true, is an increased use of automatic and semiautomatic weapons. The news index data were too thin to examine this hypothesis. But if the proportion of shootings in which semi-automatic weapons are used has increased, then the total volume of bullets discharged is likely to have increased. The more bullets discharged per shooting incident, the more likely it should be for stray bullets to hit bystanders.

7.4. More Shootings in Public Places. Punishment in drug disputes may occur in public places more often, due to changes in the economics and culture of drug dealing. Regardless of the numbers or type of weapons available, one incarcerated Washington felon says that drug dealers have escalated the level of force they use in business transactions from torture to murder. "In the 1960s, when addicted street dealers stole money or drugs from their suppliers, they risked being whipped with a coat hangar or having an arm or leg broken" (Dash, 1989). She had watched her boyfriend, a heroin "kingpin", order such a beating and then send the victim back to the streets to work off the debt by continued dealing. "'Today, if you run off with one

of these younguns' drugs or money, they are going to do you [kill you]. Its that simple..'" (Dash, 1989). The readiness to carry out such executions in public may put more bystanders at risk.

7.5. Collective Retaliation. A theory that accounts for the differences in prevalence of crowd shootings might be a culture of collective retaliation. This idea is inherent in political conflicts, as well as routine street crime (Black, 1982). If one member of a group offends a shooter, then the shooter shoots back (sooner, later, or much later) at any perceived member of that group--not just the individuals giving offense. This is part of the logic of terrorist bombings of passenger airplanes, as well as the basis of shootings of Arabs by Jewish settlers on the West Bank and Gaza Strip in Israel (Weisburd, 1988). As one shooter, a Rabbi and local leader, put it: "Arabs threw stones at my car, broke the glass and wounded me in the hand, so I shot through the window into the air" killing one nearby shopkeeper and wounding another, although witnesses said he leveled his gun and shot towards the shops at random (Brinkley, 1989).

Many of the crowd shootings in New York, and most of them in Los Angeles, seemed to fit this pattern. In Los Angeles the reports imply running feuds between rival gangs. In New York a common pattern is party crashers or persons who were not allowed to enter entertainment establishments returning with guns to shoot on entire crowds. The difficult question is why this custom should be followed more in the two big cities than in Boston and Washington.

8. Conclusion

These data suggest that bystander shootings are increasing rapidly in at least four cities, and probably more. But the nature of the increase clearly varies, with crowd shootings predominating in New York and Los Angeles, and stray bullets hitting lone "mushrooms" in Boston and D.C.. The trends and differences could be an artifact of editorial policies, but there are good reasons to reject that argument.

Assuming the trends are correct, they could forecast an important change in the character of homicide. If New York and Los Angeles are leaders in cultural trends, then many more cities should witness a growth in crowd or driveby shootings. This could increase not only the volume of homicide, but also its perceived seriousness as a threat to the safety of ordinary people not involved in violent relationships.

At the least, these data suggest the importance of modifying official crime reports to incorporate not just bystander shootings, but the stray bullet/crowd target distinction as well. With the revisions of the Uniformed Crime Reporting System now underway, some police agencies may balk at any additional items on the Supplemental Homicide Report indicting drivebys or bystanders. But absent that effort, there will be no quantitative data other than press accounts to track what could be an important and growing change in the nature of American violence.

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Table 1

Bystanders Reported Randomly Shot and Killed In New York City

1977-88

	Persons					Incidents		
Year	Wounded	Killed	Total	Stray Bullets	Crowd Attacks	Total	Stray Bullets	Crowd Attacks
1977	3	4	7	7	0	5	5	0
1978	5	4	9	9	0	6	6	0
1979	9	9	18	5	13	9	4	5
1980	9	4	13	5	8	5	4	1
1981	5	1	6	0	6	2	0	2
1982	9	2	11	2	9	5	2	3
1983	8	4	12	5	7	9	5	4
1984	10	6	16	5	11	10	5	5
1985	29	4	33	14	19	16	11	5
1986	20	9	29	10	19	12	5	7
1987	34	11	45	10	35	16	8	8
1988	42	12	54	6	48	17	6	11
1989*	14	7	21	3	18	6	3	3

Source: New York Times Index for "Murder and Attempted Murder " and "Shootings"

* Based on Jan. 1- April 1, actual newspaper stories (not indexed)

Table 2

Bystanders Reported Randomly Shot and Killed by Three Year Period, New York City, 1977-88

	Period				
	1977-79	1980-82	1983-85	1986-88	Total
Persons					
Wounded	17	23	47	96	183
Killed	17	7	14	32	70
Total Persons	34	30	61	128	253
Persons by Stray	21	7	24	26	78
Persons in Crowd	13	23	37	102	175
Incidents					
Total Incidents	20	12	35	45	112
Stray Incidents	15	6	21	19	61
Crowd Incidents	5	6	14	26	51

Source: New York Times Index for "Murder and Attempted Murder" and "Shootings"

Table 3

Bystanders Reported Randomly Shot and Killed In Los Angeles

1977-88

	Persons					Incidents		
Year	Wounded	Killed	Total	Stray Bullets	Crowd Attacks	Total	Stray Bullets	Crowd Attacks
1983*	1	0	1	1	0	1	1	0
1984	12	0	12	1	11	3	1	2
1985	1	0	1	1	0	1	1	0
1986**	0	10	10	4	6	4	2	2
1987	6	12	18	4	14	8	4	4
1988	56	21	77	9	68	22	8	14

* No bystander shootings reported in headlines indexed 1977-82

**Index changes from headlines to more detailed summaries

Table 4

Bystanders Reported Shot and Killed in Los Angeles

by Three Year Period, 1977-88

	1977-79	1980-82	1983-85	1986-88*	Total
Persons					
Wounded	0	0	14	72	86
Killed	0	0	0	33	33
Total	0	0	14	105	119
Persons by Stray	0	0	3	17	20
Persons in Crowd	0	0	11	88	99
Incidents					
Total Incidents	0	0	5	34	39
Stray	0	0	3	14	17
Crowd	0	0	2	20	22

* Index changes from headlines to more detailed summaries

Source: Los Angeles Times Index for "Murder and Murder Cases" (1977-85), "Murder and Attempted Murder" (1986-88), and "Shootings" (1977-88)

Table 5

Bystanders Reported Randomly Shot and Killed in Boston

by Three Year Period, 1977-88

	1977-79	1980-82	1983-85	1986-88	89*
Persons					
Wounded	0	0	1	4	4
Killed	0	1	1	2	1
Total	0	1	1	6	5
Persons by Stray	0	1	1	2	5
Persons in Crowd	0	0	0	4	0
Incidents					
Total Incidents	0	1	1	4	3
Stray	0	1	1	2	3
Crowd	0	0	0	2	0

* January only.

Source: Boston Globe Morgue Computer Search For Stories, Oct. 1977-February 5, 1988, key words: "innocent," "bystander," "shot," "Boston,"

Table 6

Bystanders Reported Randomly Shot and Killed in Washington, D.C.

by Three Year Period, 1977-88

	1977-79	1980-82	1983-85	1986-88
Persons				
Wounded	0	0	2	7
Killed	0	0	1	4
Total	0	0	3	11

Source: Washington Post Index for "Murder" (1977-79), "Murder and Attempted Murders" (1980-81) and "Murder-Washington, D.C." (1982-88)

Table 7

Total Bystanders Reported Shot in New York, Los Angeles, Boston and Washington, by Year

Year	Killed	Wounded	Total	Incidents
1986	20	21	41	18
1987	24	43	67	26
1988	37	98	135	43
Three Year Total	81	162	243	87

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Lawrence W. Sherman
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Report 7

Police Murdered in Drug-Related Situations, 1972-88

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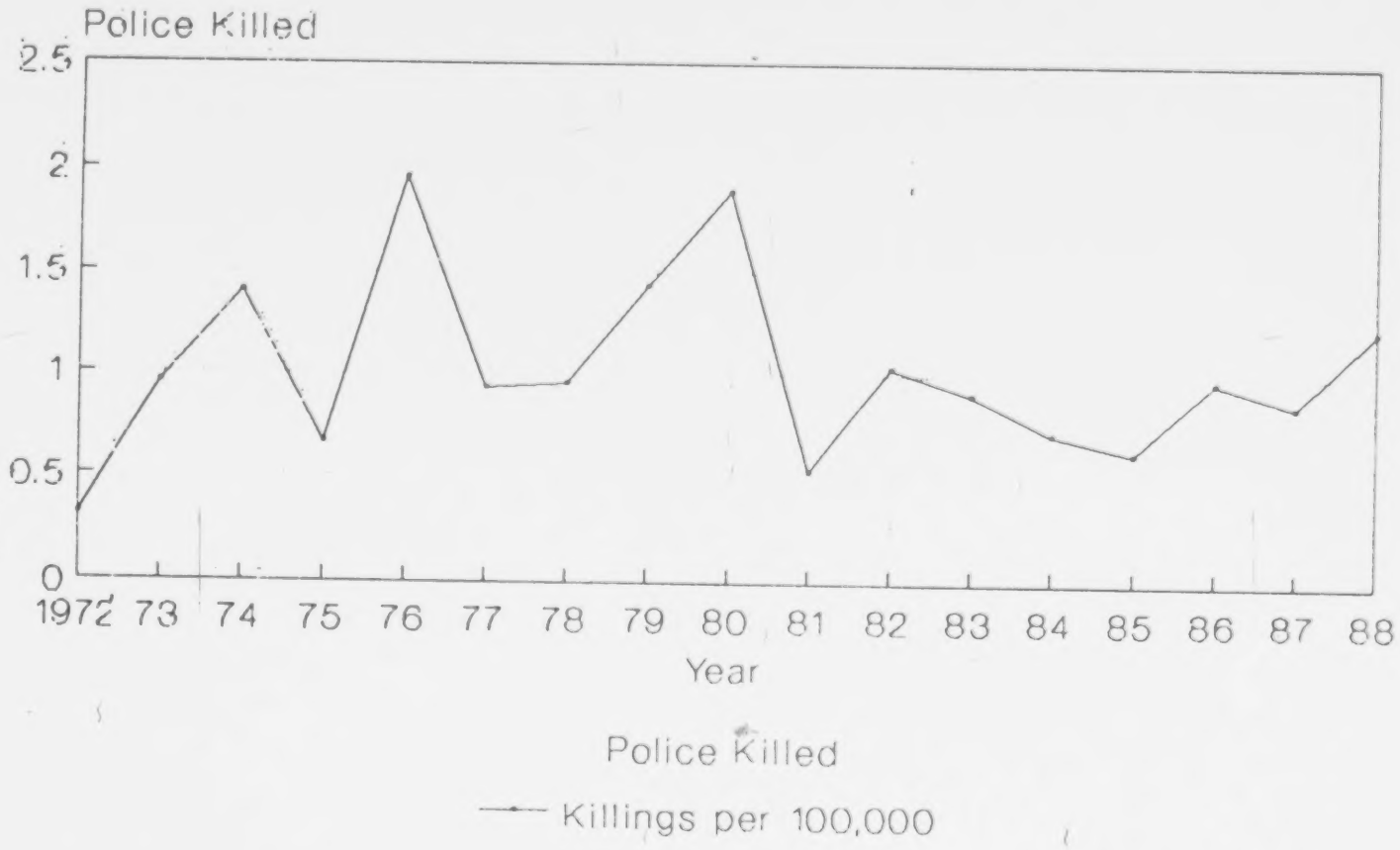
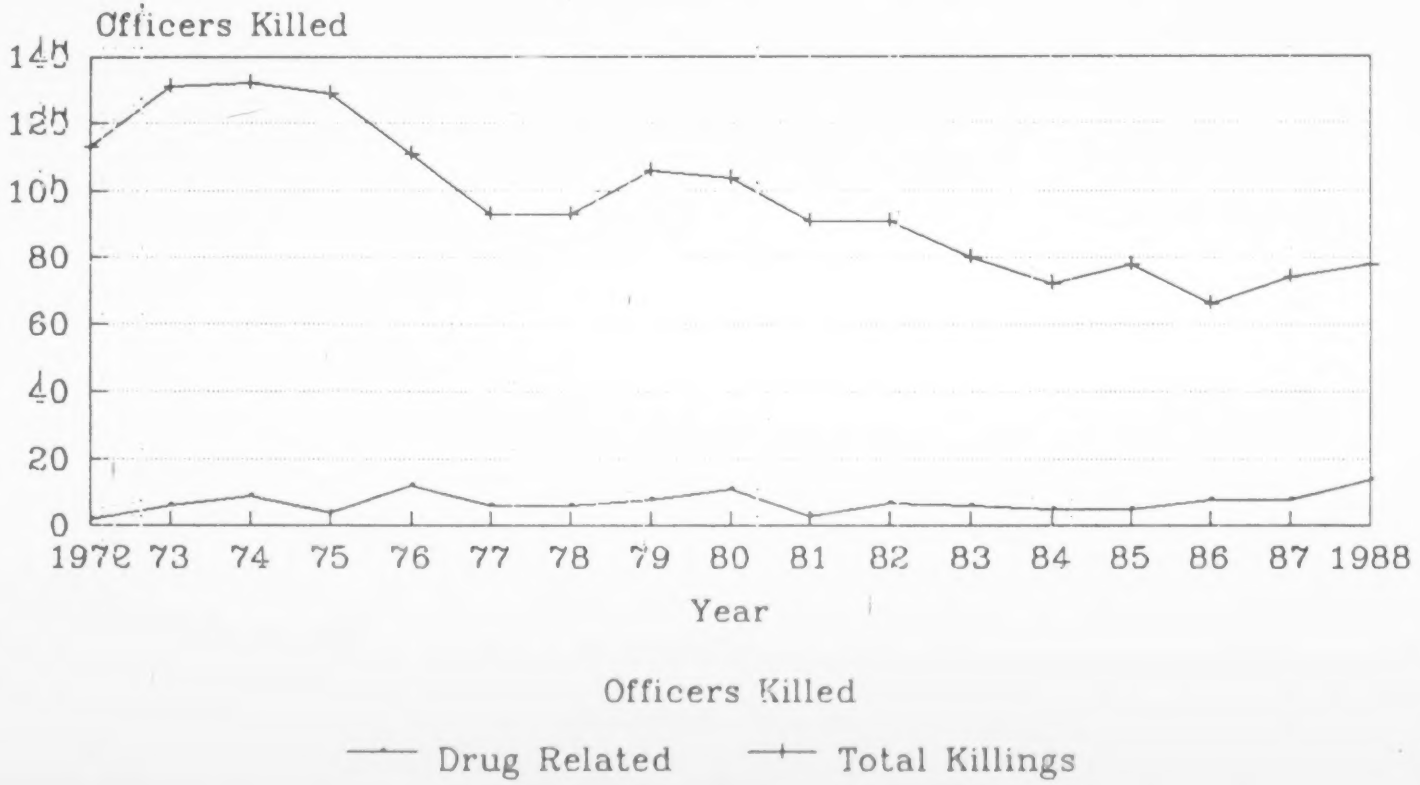
Drug Related Killings of Police Per 100,000 Drug Arrests



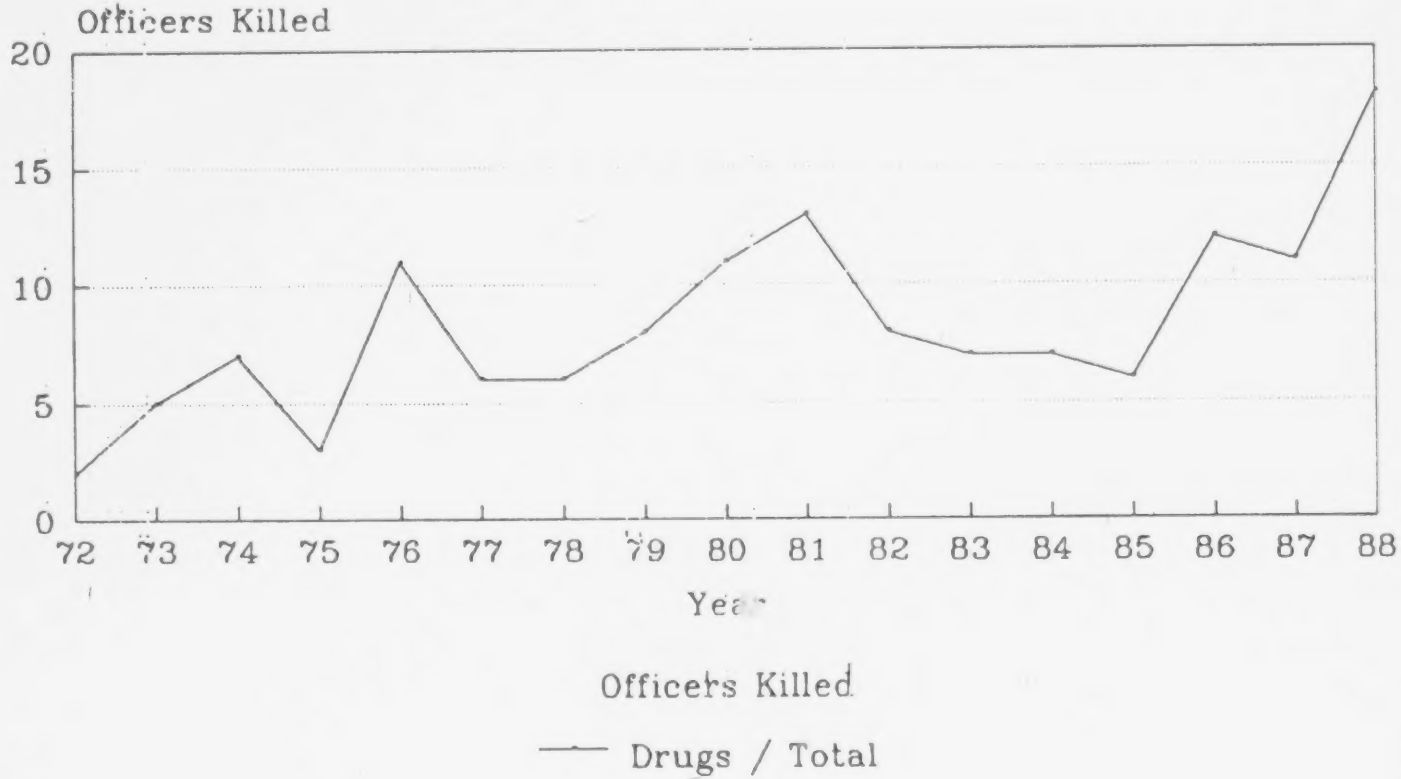
FBI UCR; Law Enforcement Officers Killed and Assaulted

Total and Drug Related Police Killings 1972 – 1988



FBI Law Enforcement Officers Killed and Assaulted

Proportion of Drug Related to Total Police Killings
1972 - 1988



FBI Law Enforcement Officers Killed and Assaulted

Almost two decades ago, President Nixon declared a national "war on drugs." That war continues today. But like any war, it varies over time in the intensity of conflict, and in the resulting death toll.

From all indications, the last several years have seen a renewed intensity of conflict. But what has been the effect on the death toll? This report addresses a key aspect of that question: the number of police killed in drug-related situations.

Since 1985, the arrival of "crack cocaine" has caused increasing public concern about the drug problem in America. It has also apparently increased the volume of drug transactions, primarily by lowering the unit price of drugs purchased at the retail level. The consequent disruption in the quality of neighborhood life, including the violence associated with many drug transactions, has pressed many police agencies to intensify street level drug enforcement. In early 1989, for example, the Kansas City, Missouri Police Department established a special street-level enforcement unit, with the goal of closing one drug house per day. In 1987, federal grants to many other police agencies supported similar intensification of enforcement efforts against crack.

We cannot estimate precisely how much effort or personnel strength has been added to American drug enforcement, particularly at the local level. We can, however, begin to estimate the number of lives lost in the process.

The Drug Wars Death Toll

The death toll in America's drug wars include at least four elements. Perhaps the largest is drug dealers shooting each other in disputes over

market territories, product quality, or old-fashioned disrespect and gang conflicts. This category has apparently accounted for hundreds of deaths in Washington and Los Angeles alone, doubling the Washington homicide rate in two years.

A more shocking component is the innocent bystanders who are shot in battles among drug dealers. These deaths have increased even more rapidly, at least according to press accounts. An earlier Crime Control Institute report documented up to a three-fold increase in such deaths in New York, Los Angeles, Boston and Washington, from 1985 through 1988 (L. Sherman, et al, "Stray Bullets and 'Mushrooms': Random Shootings of Bystanders in Four Cities, 1977-88", Journal of Quantitative Criminology, 1989).

More recently, cases of citizen volunteers being killed in retaliation for their efforts to rid neighborhoods of drug dealers have been documented (L. Sherman, "The Drug War Doesn't Need Martyrs," New York Times, August 15, 1989). With the increased emphasis being placed on citizen involvement in fighting drugs, such deaths may also soon increase.

Relatively little public attention, however, has been focused on what is arguably the key component of deaths in the war on drugs: deaths of police officers. For better or for worse, police have fought most of the battles against drug dealers, and put their lives at risk on a daily basis. Knowing how many have given their lives in the process can help police in two ways. It can keep us well aware of the human cost involved in this key area of public policy. It may also help find ways to reduce the risk to police fighting drugs.

Research Methods

In order to estimate the trends in police officers killed in drug-

related situations, we examined the F.B.I.'s annual Law Enforcement Officers Assaulted and Killed Summary reports, published since 1972. These reports contain a brief narrative summary of the circumstances surrounding every officer murdered in the line of duty. (The FBI actually has data on file on officers murdered since the early 1960s, but resource limits precluded our going beyond the published reports).

We counted a murder as drug-related if it involved any of the following conditions:

- o pursuit of a suspected drug dealer
- o the conduct of an undercover drug buy
- o the maintenance of an undercover identity for drug enforcement purposes
- o a plan by the officer murdered to give, or protect someone giving, testimony against a drug suspect
- o an attempt to arrest anyone on drug charges, including
  - traffic stops
  - encountering a drug deal in progress

We excluded drug-related murders from our count if they only involved any one of the following:

- o a killer under the influence of drugs
- o a killer who was a known or past drug dealer
- o a killer in possession of drugs

These coding rules were adopted to try to distinguish two phenomena. One is the widespread presence of drugs in many neighborhoods. Calling a murder "drug-related" because the victim or suspect had narcotics in his bloodstream or on his person is roughly equivalent to calling them "tobacco-

related" for the same reasons. Where there is widespread use of drugs--or cigarettes, or milk, or soda--it makes little sense to attribute the cause of death to the item used.

The true phenomenon of interest is the deaths caused by officers trying to do something about drugs, in one way or another. This need not be limited to intentional or planned attacks on drug dealers. Nor should it be limited to cases in which officers even suspected drugs were involved, as these cases illustrate:

- o An officer looking for a lost child in an apartment building encountered a drug deal by chance; he was murdered by the dealers.
- o An officer making a routine traffic stop was murdered by the driver, who was on his way to a drug deal
- o An officer making a traffic stop discovered marijuana in the car trunk, and was murdered by the driver.

The difference between the cases we counted and those we did not concerns the role of drugs as a cause of death. Where drugs were apparently incidental to the murder, as in a bank robbery by two suspected drug dealers, we did not include the case. Where the presence of drugs seemed to be a necessary condition of the murder, we counted the death as drug-related.

One change in counting procedures we made from U.C.R. rules was to count each death in the year the injury was inflicted, rather than in the year the officer succumbed to the injury. In one case, for example, injury and death were separated by ten years. For the purposes of the study, this procedure provides a more accurate picture of the lethality of drug enforcement on a year to year basis.

Accidental Deaths. One phenomenon we could not count was accidental deaths of officers in drug-related situations, especially raids. If police officers are killed by other officers, or with their own guns, they are not included in the narratives of police officers murdered. How often such accidents occur is unknown. We do know, however, that in 1988 at least three officers were killed by other officers in the course of drug raids in just two jurisdictions, New York City and Prince George's County, Maryland. (see New York Times, August 17, 1988, p. B1; Washington Post, September 3, 1988, p. B1,B7). Thus the true count of officers killed in the line of duty while fighting drugs may be much higher than the following findings suggest.

Findings

The good news about the findings is that so few officers have been killed, relative to the enormous numbers of drug enforcement situations. The bad news is that the numbers of deaths have been increasing -- as a proportion of all deaths since 1985, and in total deaths in 1988.

As Table 1 shows, only seven officers a year, on average, were murdered in drug-related situations from 1972 through 1988. These numbers have fluctuated somewhat from year to year, as statisticians expect to find in any "time series." The reasons for these fluctuations are manifold and complex. They may also be merely due to chance. But one major reason for the fluctuations could be the changing levels of drug enforcement activity. This factor raises the larger question of how well managed drug enforcement operations are from the standpoint of officer safety.

Managing Drug Enforcement Safely. The risk of death in drug enforcement depends upon two key factors: the number of deaths (the numerator of the fraction) and the number of officer-hours committed to drug enforcement (the denominator of tne fraction). Table 1 presents data solely on the numerator. While the denominator would ideally include detailed data on drug enforcement activities, such data are unavailable. Table 2 presents the best available indicator on drug enforcement, the total number of narcotics arrests reported to the Uniform Crime Reports, Part II. These data are only a crude indicator of total drug enforcement, for several reasons. Among the most important is the counting rule for each arrest: only the most serious charge is counted, and not additional charges of lesser seriousness. This means that each time someone is arrested for possession of narcotics and weapons, the arrest is generally counted as a weapons arrest. The total narcotics arrests reported in Table 2, then, substantially underestimate the total number of arrests in drug-related situations.

Nonetheless, the narcotics arrest data may be a consistent indicator of drug enforcement activity, even if it is not a perfect one. The data seem likely to reflect the general direction of drug enforcement activity, and should be a fairly robust gauge to the number of situations in which officers are at risk of being killed concerning drugs.

Table 2 shows two things. One is the relatively low risk of death per drug arrest. Even officers who make two drug arrests a day, 220 days a year, for 25 years will only make 5500 drug arrests. What is more common is assignment to narcotics work for a period of several years, although patrol work may always involve narcotics. Career drug arrests may total, on

average, less than 100 for the typical officer (500,000 officers/1,000,000 arrests per year = 2 per officer per year). At these levels of drug enforcement activity, odds of 1 death per 100,000 drug arrests are pretty safe bets.

But Table 2 also shows that the risk of death per arrest has been rising in recent years. From 1984 through 1988, it rose from .71 to 1.22 murders per 100,000 drug arrests, a 70% increase. While the risk of death per arrest is still not as high as in the record years of 1976 and 1980, this trend is still an ominous one. The record levels of drug enforcement, combined with rising risk levels per arrest, suggest that the total murders of police in drug enforcement will increase in future years.

Do Risks Vary By Situation? Table 3 shows that different numbers of police have been killed in different kinds of drug-related circumstances. The most common situation is undercover enforcement, primarily (but not always) in the conduct of "buy and bust" operations. Almost equal numbers of police have been murdered in the conduct of drug raids, usually under a search or arrest warrant. Somewhat fewer have been killed in other enforcement situations, largely when the officers accidently discover drugs or drug dealing in the course of general enforcement activities.

Whether these differences actually reflect differences in risk per officer, however, cannot be determined without more facts about the relevant denominator. Many more officers may be involved in drug raids than in buy and bust operations, for example. If that is true, than undercover drug buys may pose a far greater risk of death per officer than drug raids.

Ambushes and Testimony. The smallest category of drug-related police murders, as Table 3 shows, is killing to prevent testimony, and other assassinations. One officer was killed while sitting in a squad car guarding the home of a key drug witness, which had already been firebombed. Another officer, slated to testify himself in a drug trial, was sitting at home watching television when he was murdered. A third officer, an active community speaker against drugs, was killed at home by a shotgun blast through his kitchen window.

These cases are a mere handful compared to the 220 judges and other court officials slain in Colombia, apparently by drug dealers, since 1981 (New York Times, August 21, 1989, p.A3). But it is striking that four out of six of these U.S. cases occurred in the period from 1985 through 1988. Here again, the data suggest an escalation in the level of violence police confront in drug enforcement.

Conclusions

What can we conclude from this analysis of the available data? Three things. The death toll is not nearly as bad as it could be. But it does appear to be getting worse. And there may be ways to prevent it from rising even faster.

The success of American police in minimizing the death toll is striking. If we assume, just for the sake of argument, that at least 10% of the drug arrestees nationwide are armed, police engaged in over 100,000 armed confrontations over drugs in 1988 with only 14 murders (and at least 3 accidental deaths). This record is a tribute to careful planning, good

training, and well-developed expertise.

The record does not, again, include accidental deaths caused by other officers. Nor does it include non-fatal injuries to officers, which are certain to be far more numerous than the deaths. But most people reacting to this study's findings have been surprised at how low the death toll is.

The small numbers in any one year makes it difficult to be certain about the direction of future trends. Any one year can be an extreme case, merely by chance. Viewed in terms of total deaths, there is limited evidence of an upward trend. But viewed in terms of the proportion of officer deaths, as well as the risk per drug arrest in recent years, the evidence for a trend towards more police murdered is more compelling. In any case, 1988 had more drug-related deaths than any year since the FBI began publishing reports in 1972.

Rehearsing Each Drug Raid. Can anything be done to reduce the risks of death to police in drug-related circumstances? Perhaps. One possibility would be to allocate far more time in rehearsing, and not just planning, each drug raid. The tragedy of officers shooting other officers in these raids suggests a need for greater attention to all of the possible things that can go wrong, in the specific context of each raid target.

If we are truly engaged in a war on drugs, than we should adopt the military norm of spending far more time in preparation for each raid than in its actual conduct. Under the tight budgets of local police departments, that is not usually possible. But imagine the possibilities of each narcotics team spending their work week in this fashion: four days in rehearsal and planning, and one day to conduct and process a raid. Would

the investment of time pay off in more lives saved? The answer depends on how that time would be used.

A raid can be preceded by the collection and memorizing of large amounts of information. The information should cover both the social and physical environment of the premises to be raided. The fire department or buildings department may be able to provide a floor plan of the premises showing all windows, closets and doors. A blowup of that floorplan could be used with stick figures to plot out all of the possible moves during the raid, premised on different initial locations, numbers and identities of the occupants. Like a chess game, the figures could be moved around to help imagine all the different ways that officers might get shot by their opponents, or by each other. These scenarios could help develop plans for preventing injury.

With improved computerization of drug intelligence, raids can also be planned with more data about the social environment. The National Institute of Justice is launching a program for developing a tactical information file as part of a larger research program on street level drug enforcement. This program can serve as a model for the kinds of data which can be assembled about the places and people associated with a contemplated drug raid. This can include not only the persons at the targeted premises, but also their immediate neighbors.

Better familiarity with these data might only succeed in saving a few lives of police officers -- and citizens --- each year. So might actual role playing of each raid, at least several times before it is launched. Whether it is worth the extra money to pay police for careful rehearsal, rather than rapid production of drug arrests, is ultimately up to the voters. The

purpose of this report is to make both voters and police professionals aware of that choice, and the risks of officers dying under the current approaches to drug enforcement.

Table 1

Drug-Related Murders and Total Murders of U.S. Police

Year	Drug-Related	All Causes	Per Cent Drug-Related
1972	2	113	2%
1973	6	131	5%
1974	9	132	7%
1975	4	129	3%
1976	11	112	10%
1977	6	93	6%
1978	6	93	6%
1979	8	106	8%
1980	11	104	11%
1981	3	91	3%
1982	7	91	8%
1983	6	80	7%
1984	5	72	7%
1985	5	78	6%
1986	8	66	12%
1987	8	74	11%
1988	14	78	18%
Totals	119	1643	7%

Table 2

Drug Murders of Police and Drug Arrests

Year	Murders	Drug Arrests	Arrests Per Murder	Murders Per 100,000 Arrests
1972	2	642,700	312,350	.31
1973	6	628,900	104,817	.95
1974	9	642,100	71,344	1.40
1975	4	601,400	150,350	.66
1976	12	609,700	50,808	1.96
1977	6	642,700	107,117	.93
1978	6	628,700	104,783	.95
1979	8	558,900	69,825	1.43
1980	11	580,900	52,809	1.89
1981	3	559,900	186,633	.53
1982	7	676,000	96,571	1.03
1983	6	661,400	110,233	.90
1984	5	708,400	141,680	.71
1985	5	811,400	162,280	.62
1986	8	824,100	103,012	.97
1987	8	937,400	117,175	.85
1988	14	1,155,200	82,514	1.22

Table 3

Drug Murders of Police by Type and Year

Year	Warrant & Raids	Ambush & Prevent Testimony	Buy & Bust	Other Enforcement	Total
1972	0	1	1	0	2
1973	1	0	3	2	6
1974	3	0	2	4	9
1975	0	0	2	2	4
1976	8	0	2	1	11
1977	1	0	1	4	6
1978	3	0	1	2	6
1979	3	0	4	1	8
1980	2	0	3	6	11
1981	2	1	0	0	3
1982	1	0	6	0	7
1983	5	0	1	0	6
1984	2	0	1	2	5
1985	1	1	1	2	5
1986	1	1	2	4	8
1987	2	1	2	3	8
1988	3	1	7	3	14
Total	38	6	39	36	119
Per Cent	32%	5%	33%	30%	100%

APPENDIX:

FBI NARRATIVES OF POLICE KILLED IN DRUG-RELATED SITUATIONS,

1972-1988*

* Source: Law Enforcement Officers Assaulted and Killed Summaries, 1972-87. Narratives for 1988 are authors' summaries of the unreleased 1988 FBI reports.

DRUG-RELATED DEATHS OF LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICERS - 1988

CALIFORNIA January 1988

A Sheriff's Department deputy died on January 9 from wounds received during a drug raid on January 8. In an attempt to serve a search warrant, the victim and two other deputies forcibly entered the residence of a known drug dealer at approximately 6:00 p.m. and were met with gunfire. The 12 year veteran, who was wearing body armor, was shot in the head and right hand with a .38 caliber handgun. The male assailant was killed by return fire.

CALIFORNIA January 1988

A 24 year old police officer died on January 31. After 12 midnight on January 9, the victim and his partner were on patrol in a marked car within an area known for drug dealing. They saw 5 males standing by a parked vehicle. The victim, who was in uniform and wearing body armor, was shot in the head with a .22 caliber handgun at close range. Investigation shows that the 5 males were alleged members of a drug organization and were armed and planning a hit on a rival gang's drug house prior to being approached. A 24 year old male was caught and charged. The victim officer had 10 months of law enforcement experience.

KANSAS February 1988

On February 2, during the execution of a drug search warrant, a 36 year old detective was killed. Three hours prior to receiveing the warrant, a narcotics officer had made a drug buy in a house. After the buy a warrant was obtained, and the officer along with his backup went to their assigned areas within the house while a suspect hid in the kitchen. The suspect shot the victim in the head with a .357 magnum handgun at less than 5 feet. On February 3, one half hour later, the 14 year veteran died. The suspect was charged with first degree murder, felony murder, aggravated assault of a law enforcement officer, sale of cocaine, and conspiracy. Investigation revealed that the suspect was wanted by the FBI in Colorado for unlawful flight to avoid prosecution on numerous drug charges.

CALIFORNIA February 1988

Two agents were killed and a third wounded by suspects in an undercover drug operation, involving heroin, on February 5. The agents had driven an alleged supplier to the location of the drugs, and, after exiting the car, the agents were ordered to put their hands up and hand over the money. After following these instructions, the agents were then shot. The first victim, who was 51 years old and a 20 year veteran, was shot in the head with a .38 caliber handgun and died the next day. The second victim, who was 34 years old and a 2 year veteran was shot with a .45 caliber semi-automatic handgun. Backup units chased and wounded the three suspecets aged 26, 17, and 18.

MASSACHUSETTS February 1988

A detective with 8 years of law enforcement experience, who was part of a plainclothes narcotic arrest team, was killed at 8:00 p.m. on February 17 during the execution of a narcotics search warrant. The suspect barricaded the door and the officers attempted to enter forcibly. The suspect was shot through the door and the victim detective was shot in the head with a .45 caliber semi-automatic handgun. The victim was 36 years old. A 32 year old male was charged.

NEW YORK February 1988

A 22 year old officer was ambushed at 3:25 a.m. on February 26. The victim, who was in full uniform, wearing body armor and in a marked police car, sat parked in front of a witness's house that had been firebombed earlier. A car stopped adjacent to the police car and fired at point blank range with a .38 caliber handgun hitting the victim in the head. Four suspects aged 19 - 24 were arrested. The victim officer had 2 years of law enforcement experience.

TEXAS March 1988

While investigating a suspicious person on March 22 at approximately 7:10 p.m., a police officer saw a car containing a male driver and a known drug dealer. The car was in an area that was known for drug dealing. The victim chased the car and lost it. The victim located the car again at a local motel. The car was stolen so the officer went to the driver's motel room to confront him. A struggle ensued and the 29 year old victim was shot two times with a .357 magnum handgun. The bullets entered his forearm and his chest (through the side panels of the body armor). A 27 year old male was arrested and charged. The victim had 8 years of law enforcement experience.

NEW YORK April 1988

On April 13 at 1:45 a.m. a 27 year old police officer was killed. The victim and a second officer were in separate stairwells of an apartment house conducting a floor by floor search for a missing child. The victim officer came upon a drug transaction in the second floor stairwell and was shot with a 9 mm handgun in the left side of his neck. The victim had three years of law enforcement experience. A 28 year old male was arrested.

FLORIDA June 1988

A 28 year old detective was killed at 4:00 p.m. on June 29. As a backup for an undercover drug operation, the detective chased one of two suspects who fled the scene of an attempted drug deal. The suspect crashed his vehicle and fled on foot around the corner of a building. The detective followed the suspect and was shot in the head with a .25 caliber handgun at 70-75 feet. A 23 year old male was arrested and charged the same day and a 37 year old male also was charged. The 4 year veteran died the following day.

NEW YORK October 1988

On October 18 an undercover police officer was making a cocaine buy prior to other officers executing a search warrant. At 7:00 p.m. the victim and partner entered the apartment. When the officers refused to snort cocaine the drug dealer became suspicious. A struggle ensued and gunfire erupted. The 26 year old victim was shot in the forehead and chest with an unknown caliber handgun. A 49 year old male was arrested on the scene. A 30 year old male fled but was arrested a few days later. A 23 year old male in the apartment was shot by the victim officer. The victim had 4 years of law enforcement experience.

LOUISIANA November 1988

On November 21 at approximately 4:45 p.m. a corporal was shot and killed while assisting in an undercover narcotics investigation. Wearing plain clothes, the 23 year old victim was in an adjoining hotel room with audio and video equipment. When the officers became suspicious of the events taking place they decided to enter the room. The victim was the first to enter the and was shot in the head with a .38 caliber handgun. Three males aged 18, 19, and 28 were arrested.

MICHIGAN November 1988

During an undercover narcotics operation an 11 year veteran police officer was killed. On November 22 at 6:45 p.m., the 38 year old victim arranged to buy 1 kilo of cocaine outside a restaurant. Four males with a plastic bag of flour approached the victim. The victim was shot in the face with a .38 caliber handgun and the suspects took the money and fled. Backup units chased the suspects. A 22 year old suspect was wounded in the leg, a 19 year old was arrested and two suspects aged 23 were also arrested in connection with the murder.

TEXAS December 1988

While attempting a narcotics buy, a 17 year veteran Senior Corporal was killed at 10:00 p.m. on December 13. The undercover victim sat in a car when approached by 4 males. The passenger door was opened and a 19 year old male talked to the victim about cocaine. The suspect then allegedly pulled a 9 mm semi automatic rifle from under his coat and fired 7 shots, hitting the victim in the upper torso. Investigation revealed that the suspects had pre-planned to sell the cocaine and then rob the corporal of the cocaine and money and then kill him. Backup units killed a 36 year old males and wounded a 19 and a 17 year old male.

DRUG-RELATED DEATHS OF LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICERS - 1987

Florida Janurary 1987

A drug investigation on January 12 led to the deaths of two officers and the wounding of another with the Special Investigative Unit at the Fort Pierce Police Department. At approximately 10 p.m., three officers entered a mobile home to secure it for a search and to make arrests. While inside the dwelling, one of the officers encountered an armed male and yelled a warning to the others. The 10-year veteran officer fired one shot from his automatic service weapon before it jammed. The suspect returned fire killing the 31-year-old officer with a .38-caliber gunshot wound to the chest. In an exchange of gunfire between the 47-year-old suspect and a 33-year-old officer, both were killed. The victim officer with 13 years of service was shot in the groin area and succumbed to his injuries the following day. The third officer was shot in the shoulder and eventually recovered. A 25-year-old male was arrested and charged with murder and drug trafficking. A 44-year-old female suspect remains at large.

Georgia January 1987

A 30-year-old Special Agent with the Drug Enforcement Administration died on January 26, 6 days after being shot while working in an undercover capacity with a drug task force in Atlanta. Having bought small amounts of cocaine from a dealer, the Agent was negotiating a larger purchase. Before a 10 p.m. meeting, which was to take place in a shopping center parking lot, the dealer became suspicious of the surveillance vehicles he observed in the area and advised the agent he still wanted to meet but no transaction would take place. However, the man arrived with a package and got in the car with the agent. Subsequently, the 7-year veteran exited the vehicle, went to the trunk, and then proceeded to the passenger side where he had a discussion with the man. When the dealer exited the car, a struggle ensued during which the victim was shot once in the head and three times in the chest with a .32-caliber handgun. While trying to flee, the 27-year-old assailant was justifiably killed by other members of the task force. His 31-year-old brother, who had driven him to the meeting, was subsequently arrested on drug charges, convicted, and sentenced to 30

Connecticut April 1987

A canine patrol officer with the Milford Police Department was slain at approximately 2:20 a.m. on April 12 while alone and effecting a traffic stop. After informing the dispatcher of the car's license number and his location, the 25-year-old officer left the dog locked in the patrol car and approached the stopped vehicle. Apparently, he was 6-10 feet away when he was shot once in the chest with a .44-magnum handgun. A 33-year-old male, believed to be in the area to consummate a drug deal, was subsequently arrested and charged with capital murder. The victim officer had 2 years of law enforcement experience.

California June 1987

On June 22 at approximately 10 p.m., an officer with the Los Angeles Police Department was slain. While working undercover, surveilling a burglary suspect, the 28-year-old officer observed two suspicious males on a street corner in Sylmar--the males were not connected with the surveillance case. Another plainclothes officer in a separate vehicle also noticed the males and observed one of them was carrying a gun. In order to alert the victim officer and to request assistance in apprehending the suspects who were approaching his car, the second officer broadcasted via his police radio that a possible robbery was in progress. As the second officer was exiting his vehicle, there was an exchange of gunfire by the suspects and officers. The 5-year veteran officer sustained a fatal .38-caliber handgun wound to the chest. Two suspects, aged 17 and 19, were wounded and apprehended. Investigation indicates that minutes before the shooting incident the males had been involved in a drug transaction during which a drug buyer was assaulted.

Florida August 1987

A 28-year-old trooper with the Florida Highway Patrol was slain on August 18 at approximately 7:50 p.m. while effecting a traffic stop on an interstate highway near Bradenton. The trooper completed a check of the vehicle's two occupants and called for assistance when he found cocaine during a search of the trunk. Reportedly, at the time of his backup request, a struggle began with the car's driver. During the struggle, which carried the two down an embankment into a water-filled ditch, the victim lost control of his .357-magnum service weapon and was shot in the face at point-blank range. Hearing the gunfire, the passenger slid into the driver's seat and fled in the car. The trooper's assailant fled on foot into a wooded and swampy area. About 3 hours later, a 42-year-old male was arrested and charged with murder and cocaine trafficking. The victim trooper, a 4-year veteran of law enforcement, was wearing a protective vest when shot.

Hawaii October 1987

An officer with the Honolulu Police Department was slain about 3:55 a.m. on October 22 to prevent his testimony in a pending drug trial. Although the 24-year-old victim was in uniform status, he had worked in an undercover capacity on several drug cases. He was off duty and at his residence watching television when a 12-gauge shotgun was fired through a window. The victim officer, who had less than 2 years of law enforcement experience, was fatally wounded in the back of the head. A 24-year-old male was arrested November 25 and charged with murder and as a felon in possession of a firearm.

Texas October 1987

On October 23 at approximately 7:30 p.m., an officer with the Midlothian Police Department was shot and killed. Posing as a student in a local high school, the 21-year-old officer had been working in an undercover capacity in drug enforcement and had made buys from students. Investigation indicates that about a week prior to the victim's death, his assailants surmised he was an officer and planned his execution. After two males lured him to an open field about 7 miles outside of town, the officer was, without warning, shot in the back of the head with a .38-caliber handgun. Although his wallet was stolen, his vehicle was left at the scene as his assailants had made prior arrangements to be picked up and driven back into the city. Two 16-year-old males, a 17-year-old male, and a 23-year-old female were subsequently arrested. All three males have been charged with capital murder. The victim officer had less than 1 year of law enforcement experience.

DRUG-RELATED DEATHS OF LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICERS - 1986

Florida January 1986

A Bay County Sheriff's Office sergeant was shot and killed in Panama City shortly after midnight on January 28. The 37-year-old sergeant, a narcotics investigator, radioed the Sheriff's office and requested that a uniformed deputy meet him at the apartment complex where the sergeant lived. A marked unit was within blocks of the site and responded immediately. Upon arrival, the responding deputy found the sergeant lying in the parking lot with a gunshot wound to the head from a .357-magnum handgun, his service weapon still in its holster and his radio nearby. Personnel from the Sheriff's office and the Panama City Police Department began an intensive investigation. Later the same day, a 37-year-old male suspect was arrested and charged with first-degree murder. The 7-year veteran of law enforcement died hours later at a local hospital.

Kentucky February 1986

An undercover narcotics detective with the Shively Police Department was shot and killed at approximately 11 p.m. on February 12. During a controlled buy, the victim was attempting to purchase drugs from his alleged assailant when the male evidently tried to rob him. In an ensuing gun battle, the 25-year-old officer fired six rounds from his .357-magnum service weapon, one of which struck the suspect in the right arm. Three of five rounds fired at the detective from a .38-caliber handgun caused fatal wounds to his upper right chest. The suspect, a 21-year-old male, has been charged with murder, as well as the sale of a controlled substance from a previous incident. The victim had less than 2 years of law enforcement experience.

Arizona February 1986

On February 21, a U. S. Customs Service patrol officer, aged 41, was killed on the Papago Indian Reservation. The incident occurred in an area 1 mile north of the Mexico/Arizona border, which is a frequented passage for illegal aliens and drug smugglers. At approximately 9:30 p.m., the 16-year veteran transmitted a call requesting backup assistance. He advised of having observed three backpackers whom he was about to approach. (Narcotics smugglers in the area often travel in small groups using backpacks.) When the backup officers arrived about 25 minutes later, they found the victim officer's body. He had been shot in the right hand and left side of the face with a .357-caliber handgun and then twice in the back with his own 9-millimeter service weapon. A set of footprints found near the victim's body, plus two additional sets nearby, were tracked across the Mexican border. Investigation by numerous law enforcement agencies is continuing.

Pennsylvania March 1986

On March 31 at approximately 4:30 p.m., a sergeant with the Philadelphia Police Department was shot and killed while attempting an arrest. The victim and his partner, both off duty and in civilian clothes, were returning to police headquarters after a court appearance. Upon observing an auto accident at a nearby intersection, they pursued the driver at fault, who fled on foot. As his partner pulled their car abreast of the male, the 43-year-old sergeant exited, identified himself as a police officer, and ordered the man to stop. Investigation indicates the male produced a .357-magnum handgun and shot the 20-year veteran twice in the chest. The victim officer's partner returned fire, hitting the assailant four times but not disabling him. Two civilians chased the suspect from the shooting scene and held him in a vacant lot until other officers arrived. The 20-year-old male was subsequently arrested and charged with murder and aggravated assault. Investigation indicates the male had been previously arrested for narcotics violations and was a fugitive wanted for failure to appear in court.

Mississippi May 1986

While assisting a deputy in making an arrest, the Sheriff of Marshall County was slain on May 7 at approximately 10:15 a.m. The deputy had responded to a call of a suspicious car parked on the side of a county road. Upon arrival at the location, the deputy reportedly found a 22-year-old male and a 30-year-old female in the car which contained narcotics and drug paraphernalia. The Sheriff responded to the deputy's call for assistance to transport both suspects. After the 50-year-old Sheriff put the female in the front seat of his patrol vehicle, he removed his .357-magnum handgun from under the seat and placed it outside the car. While attempting to handcuff the male suspect before putting him in the rear seat of the patrol car, a scuffle ensued. As the deputy rushed to assist the Sheriff, the male suspect allegedly produced a .22-caliber derringer which he had hidden on his person. The 6-year veteran Sheriff was shot in the neck at pointblank range. Subsequently, the male was subdued and was arrested and charged with capital murder.

Florida June 1986

At approximately 2:35 a.m. on June 3, an officer with the Opa Locka Police Department was slain while attempting to effect a narcotics arrest. Reportedly, the victim observed a drug violation occurring in a vehicle parked at a local store. When one person exited the car and went into the store, the officer approached the vehicle and attempted to arrest a male suspect. During an ensuing struggle, the man allegedly obtained the 29-year-old officer's .357-caliber service weapon, shot him in the throat, and fled the area. A 22-year-old male was apprehended the next day and charged with first-degree murder, armed robbery, resisting arrest with violence, and possession of a firearm in the commission of a felony. The victim officer had over 1 year of law enforcement service.

Texas October 1986

A 36-year-old narcotics investigator with the Hidalgo County Sheriff's Office was fatally shot on October 31 at about 6:30 p.m. as he was attempting to execute a search warrant. The victim, along with two other Hidalgo County investigators and three officers from the McAllen Police Department, went to a residence in a rural part of the county to execute the search. Upon entering the house trailer, the officers secured a female and two children in the living room and then proceeded to locate a male they had observed run to the back of the residence. As the officers opened a bedroom door, the male opened fire with a 9-millimeter semiautomatic handgun, shooting the 11-year veteran in the head. His 31-year-old assailant was slain by return fire from the other officers.

Texas December 1986

A Special Agent with the Drug Enforcement Administration assigned to the McAllen Office was shot and killed on December 31 at approximately 7:30 p.m. during an attempted narcotics buy. The 30-year-old Agent, working undercover, met with a drug dealer at a supermarket parking lot in Pharr. During the transaction, a struggle occurred inside the Agent's car. Investigation shows the 28-year-old suspect's first shot struck his own leg; he then put the .38-caliber handgun to the Agent's chest and fired again. DEA Agents in the area converged on the vehicle and arrested the suspect. The victim Agent was transported to a local medical center where he died while undergoing emergency treatment. Two additional subjects, aged 24 and 25, were subsequently arrested in connection with the drug deal.

DRUG-RELATED DEATHS OF LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICERS - 1985

Mexico March 1985

The body of a 13-year veteran Drug Enforcement Administration Special Agent was found on Mar[illegible] 7 near a Vista Hermosa ranch. The agent and [illegible] Mexican pilot, whose body was discovered at the same time, had been missing for a month following their abduction from Guadalajara on February 7. The 37-year-old agent died from a blow to the head with a blunt object. Both men are believed to have been tortured before their deaths. Although the exact circumstances are unknown, the murders are considered drug related. Two suspects have been apprehended in connection with the offenses, and investigation continues to identify others who may also have been involved.

Wisconsin March 1985

Two Milwaukee Police Department officers were killed on March 19. At approximately 9:30 a.m., the two officers were on patrol when they stopped to question three males. Suspecting a drug deal was in progress, the officers were searching the males when one reportedly drew a .25-caliber handgun and fired two shots. Each patrolman received a fatal wound to the chest. One victim officer, a 16-year veteran aged 48, managed to fire two shots at the fleeing males but did not strike the suspects. The second officer was 39 years old and had 18 years of law enforcement experience. A suspect, aged 26, was arrested in a nearby suburb when he allegedly threatened a woman with a knife in an attempt to steal her car. The suspect was charged with two counts of first-degree murder.

Oklahoma May 1985

A 41-year-old Narcotic Agent Field Supervisor with the Oklahoma Bureau of Narcotics and Dangerous Drugs Control was slain on May 8 at approximately 10 p.m. The agent, working in an undercover capacity, had arranged a drug purchase and met two suspects, a male and a female, at a Woodward restaurant. Following the drug transaction, the 14-year veteran signaled nearby officers to arrest the two, announcing his identity and informing them they were under arrest. Still seated in the vehicle in which the transaction allegedly took place, the male reportedly fired a 12-gauge shotgun at the agent, who was standing less than 5 feet away. The blast struck the victim in the chest killing him instantly. Firing at the other officers and wounding a Woodward Police Department officer, the male fled on foot, but a 24-year-old suspect was apprehended a short time later. He was charged with first-degree murder and shooting with intent to kill.

New Jersey August 1985

Executing a narcotics search warrant in Westville led to the death of a 36-year-old New Jersey State Police detective. At approximately 7 p.m. on August 28, the 14-year veteran, other state police, and county and local law enforcement officers raided an apartment house in which drugs were allegedly being manufactured. Members of the party who were deployed to the unit upstairs were confronted by a male who admitted them to an apartment. As the officers were placing this suspect under arrest, another male reportedly emerged from a bedroom closet armed with a 12-gauge pump shotgun. During the ensuing exchange of gunfire, the victim was fatally wounded in the head, and the 57-year-old alleged assailant was struck five times. He survived and has been charged with murder.

DRUG-RELATED DEATHS OF LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICERS - 1984

Illinois January 1984

On January 17, a 10-year veteran patrolman with the Chicago Police Department was slain shortly before 8 p.m. After having been denied admittance to an apartment at which they were to execute a narcotics search warrant, the 41-year-old patrolman and five other officers forcibly entered the dwelling. As the officers entered, a male, who had been hiding behind a sofa, jumped up and began firing a .38-caliber handgun. The victim sustained three gunshot wounds, one below the waist and two to the head. The other officers returned fire, killing the 22-year-old male.

Texas January 1984

At approximately 8 p.m. on January 27, a 28-year-old sergeant with the Longview Police Department was slain. The 9-year veteran and three fellow officers, all of whom were in plain clothes, were attempting to execute a narcotics search warrant at a local motel. Upon arriving at the room, the sergeant announced his presence and opened the door with a passkey but was prevented from entering by a security chain. He was attempting to kick the door in when he was shot in the chest with a .357-magnum handgun. The bullet came through the open space between the door and its frame. The sergeant died while en route to the hospital. After a hostage negotiator talked him into surrendering, one 46-year-old male suspect was arrested at the scene and charged with capital murder.

Florida September 1984

After effecting a traffic stop, a 41-year-old trooper with the Florida Highway Patrol received a gunshot wound on September 15 that resulted in his death 3 days later. At approximately 5 p.m., the officer stopped a speeding vehicle containing four males. During the course of the stop, the 14-year veteran trooper reportedly learned that the trunk of the vehicle contained marijuana. While attempting to make an arrest, the victim was shot in the head with a .38-caliber handgun. A 21-year-old male has been arrested in connection with the incident.

California November 1984

A 31-year-old patrolman with the Oakland Police Department died on November 13 as a result of a gunshot wound suffered while investigating a reported drug transaction at a laundromat 3 days earlier. On November 10 at approximately 2 p.m., the officer entered the establishment and confronted an alleged drug dealer who immediately fled out the back door. While searching the alley for the suspect, the patrolman was struck once in the back of the head by a round from a .38-caliber handgun. One male suspect, aged 19, has been arrested and charged with murder and possession of cocaine. The 6-year veteran was wearing a protective vest when slain.

Maryland December 1984

An investigation of wholesale narcotics dealers led to the death of a 36-year-old Baltimore Police Department detective at approximately 5:45 p.m. on December 3. The detective, working the undercover operation with Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) officers, was in a third-floor apartment reportedly negotiating a drug transaction when, according to plan, other detectives and DEA agents entered the building to execute a search and seizure warrant. As the other officers entered, they heard gunshots from the upstairs apartment and subsequently exchanged gunfire with a suspect. Following a short period of negotiation, a 26-year-old male surrendered and was arrested. The fatally wounded detective, a 13-year veteran, was found in the upstairs apartment. He had been shot in the upper body with a .357-magnum handgun.

DRUG-RELATED DEATHS OF LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICERS - 1983

Missouri January 1983

At approximately 3 p.m. on January 8, a detective sergeant with the Pine Lawn Police Department received fatal wounds during an attempt to execute a narcotics search warrant. Accompanied by a backup team, the 31-year-old detective sergeant went to a local residence where he announced his identity and requested admittance. Upon receiving no response, the officer, who was wearing a protective vest, forcibly opened the door and started into the dwelling. Without warning, a male allegedly emerged and fired a .22-caliber handgun, striking the officer once in the head. Fellow officers returned fire and apprehended two male suspects, aged 23 and 24. The 11-year veteran officer died the following day. Both suspects were charged with murder and various other offenses.

Georgia January 1983

A 38-year-old Georgia Bureau of Investigation Special Agent was killed at approximately 4 p.m. on January 12 while executing a narcotics search warrant at a Townsend residence. The 5-year veteran Agent was assisting other officers when fatally stabbed in the back by a knife-wielding male. Reportedly, the victim had made prior undercover narcotics purchases from his alleged assailant; those purchases had precipitated the search. A 28-year-old suspect was arrested at the scene.

California March 1983

During the course of a narcotics raid at a residence on March 3, a 33-year-old officer with the Alameda Police Department was shot and killed at about 6 p.m. The 10-year veteran, one of eight officers conducting the raid for the purpose of serving multiple search warrants, was assigned to secure the rear of the dwelling. As officers entered the front of the house, the occupant reportedly tried to escape out of the back where he encountered the victim. During an exchange of gunfire, the officer was struck in the chest by rounds fired from a .223-caliber rifle and the male was wounded in the stomach and legs. Although the victim wore a protective vest, the bullets apparently entered his body through the opening between the vest's front and back panels. A suspect, 21 years old, was hospitalized in stable condition.

California April 1983

At approximately 6 a.m. on April 14, a 40-year-old sergeant with the Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department was shot while he and other members of a SWAT team were executing a search warrant at a residence occupied by armed narcotics suspects. Following other officers through a living room window, the sergeant was shot as he entered the residence. The bullet, which was fired from a .38-caliber handgun, penetrated the base of his skull and exited under the left eye. The 17-year veteran officer succumbed to his wound on April 16. His 52-year-old assailant, who had apparently secreted himself in the kitchen prior to shooting the sergeant, was shot and killed at the scene.

Florida July 1983

A 28-year-old Special Agent with the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms died on July 12 from gunshot wounds received during an undercover narcotics and weapons operation. Prior to the incident, the 7-year veteran agent had made several undercover purchases from a 32-year-old male. On the afternoon of July 8, the agent met with the man again, and according to plan, the two drove, in separate vehicles, to a local shopping center where the male was to be arrested. During the drive, the agent advised backup agents that the man was armed. Approaching the shopping center, the agent learned that the backup team was delayed in traffic and radioed that he would converse with the male until the other agents arrived. When the backup team reached the shopping center, they observed the agent leaning down at the passenger window talking to the male who was seated in his vehicle. Seeing the backup team, the agent moved away from the man's car, drew his service weapon, and identified himself. Almost immediately, an exchange of gunfire occurred during which the agent received a fatal .38-caliber handgun wound to the head. After the other agents returned fire, the male surrendered and was taken into custody. Subsequently, the man was found guilty of second-degree murder and sentenced to life plus 75 years' imprisonment.

Pennsylvania September 1983

A 15-year Pittsburgh Police Department veteran was slain during an attempt to execute a narcotics search warrant on the afternoon of September 16. Following a marijuana buy at a local residence, the detective and three other officers prepared to execute the warrant. As several persons were inside the dwelling, it was planned that a female officer would use a ruse to convince occupants to admit her, and then all four officers, would enter simultaneously. Although the female was admitted, the door was immediately slammed shut behind her, leaving the three others outside. Apparently having learned of the officers' presence, the occupants overpowered the female and obtained her .38-caliber service weapon. When one of them then opened the front door, the 51-year-old victim detective entered with his gun drawn. Armed with the female officer's weapon, a male confronted the detective and fired three times, fatally wounding him in the thigh and right side. The detective returned fire, killing

DRUG-RELATED DEATHS OF LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICERS - 1982

Alabama January 1982

While attempting to arrest a suspect believed to be selling narcotics, an investigator with the Montgomery Police Department was slain at approximately 6:00 p.m. on January 5. The investigator and her partner were in plain clothes working on vice and narcotics matters when they received a radio call advising that a male was selling drugs from a street corner in a local housing project. Upon arriving at the scene, the investigator exited the passenger side of the vehicle and identified herself as an officer while her partner approached the male from the rear. Drawing a .22-caliber handgun from the waistband of his trousers, the suspect discharged the weapon and shot himself in the hip. Allegedly, he continued to fire, striking the victim once in the upper chest. In the ensuing struggle, the victim's partner was disarmed and wounded in the hip. The assailant fled the scene. Responding officers apprehended a 36-year-old suspect shortly after the incident. The 25-year-old victim investigator had 3 years of law enforcement service.

Arizona February 1982

During an undercover narcotics transaction at a local tavern, a patrolman with the Tucson Police Department was shot and killed at approximately 9:50 p.m. on February 18. After the patrolman and two other officers arrived at the bar at the prearranged time, one officer accompanied the suspected drug dealer to a private office in the rear of the establishment to complete the narcotics purchase. Shortly thereafter, as uniformed officers entered the bar and announced their identities, the patrolman and the other undercover officer proceeded to the private office to assist in arresting the suspect. Upon entering the office, they were confronted by the suspect who was armed with a 9-millimeter handgun. The suspect fired several times and struck the victim once in the chest. Although mortally wounded, the patrolman was able to return gunfire, killing his 33-year-old assailant. The 27-year-old victim patrolman had 4 years of law enforcement service.

California March 1982

While attempting to execute a narcotics search warrant, a 30-year-old deputy with the San Joaquin County Sheriff's Office was shot and killed. The deputy and three other Metropolitan Narcotics Task Force officers went to a local residence to serve the warrant and allegedly were denied entrance upon announcing their identities. Following the officers' failed attempt at forcible entry, the dwelling's front door opened and the four were fired upon with a .380-caliber handgun. The deputy was killed by a round which entered his right arm, careened through his body, and struck his aorta. Return fire wounded a female suspect, aged 31, who was subsequently charged with the 10-year veteran deputy's murder.

New Mexico August 1982

The Senior Agent-In-Charge of the Las Cruces-Dona Ana County Metro Narcotics Agency was shot and killed on August 24. At approximately 12:30 p.m., the 35-year-old agent went to the parking lot of a Las Cruces bar where he was to make an undercover narcotics buy. Three surveillance units were located nearby, and the officer was observed talking with a male. Although plans called for the agent to leave the area in his personal vehicle, he instead left with the male and the surveillance team was unable to maintain contact. The 11-year veteran's body was found in a Las Cruces motel room about 6 hours later. He had been shot three times with a .22-magnum handgun. Two male suspects aged, 27 and 23, were subsequently arrested and charged with the agent's murder.

Puerto Rico October 1982

An undercover officer with the Police of Puerto Rico was apparently ambushed and shot to death on the night of October 13. His body was discovered early the next morning in the front seat of his personally owned vehicle. He had received fatal wounds to the chest inflicted with a .32-caliber handgun. The unarmed officer was last heard from about 8:00 p.m. on the night of his apparently premeditated murder, and it is believed the 21-year-old officer was acquainted with his assailant, a suspected narcotics dealer. In connection with the slaying of the officer, who had less than 1 year of law enforcement service, a 20-year-old male was arrested on October 18.

Florida December 1982

During an undercover narcotics purchase in Miami, a 28-year-old Special Agent with the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms was slain. Prior to the shooting on the afternoon of December 2, two agents, with a backup team, went to a local motel with money to purchase a large quantity of cocaine. The two agents entered a motel room, and following a prearranged signal, the backup team was moving in when shots were heard. When inside the room, the team discovered both agents wounded, and during the ensuing gun battle, two suspects were also injured. The victim agent, who had 4 years of law enforcement experience, succumbed to his wounds at a local hospital. Three males, two aged 41 and one aged 33, were charged with the agent's death.

Ohio December 1982

While working an undercover narcotics assignment, an officer with the Niles Police Department was killed between 8:00 and 10:00 p.m. on December 8. After the off-duty officer was in telephonic contact with an informant who allegedly indicated he would sell valuable drug information for a specific amount of money, a rendezvous was arranged. The 26-year-old officer with 5 years of law enforcement experience then obtained a small sum of money from his agency and reportedly went to keep his appointment with the informant. The following morning an employee of a steel company located in nearby Weathersfield Township discovered the victim's body and his vehicle in the company's parking lot. The officer had been struck in the right temple and cheek with two rounds fired from a .22-caliber handgun. Missing from the scene were the victim's personally owned .357-magnum handgun, his 12-gauge shotgun, and the police department's portable communications radio. On December 11, two suspects, one of whom was the informant, were arrested in Cheyenne, Wyoming, after a traffic stop for driving while intoxicated. Both males, 18 and 17 years of age, have been charged with aggravated murder. Subsequent investigation indicates the officer's killing was premeditated.

DRUG-RELATED DEATHS OF LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICERS - 1981

Ohio February 1981

On the evening of February 7, a lieutenant with the Washington County Sheriff's Department was slain in an ambush attack. The off-duty officer, locally known for his numerous lectures on drug abuse, was killed at his residence by an unknown assailant firing a 12-gauge shotgun through the kitchen window. The 49-year-old lieutenant was fatally wounded in the head. He had served the law enforcement community for 12 years.

Florida July 1981

On the evening of July 24, a 38-year-old detective with the Tampa Police Department was slain during a narcotics raid at a local residence. After reportedly completing negotiations for the purchase of approximately 50 pounds of marijuana, an undercover officer activated an electronic transmitting device alerting backup officers to enter the dwelling. Wearing dark blue raid jackets marked "POLICE" and announcing their identity, the victim detective and two other officers were the first to go inside the residence. As they entered, gunfire immediately erupted from the bedroom where the transaction was taking place. The shooting spree left the detective dead from a shot to the chest and another officer and one suspect wounded. All shots were fired allegedly by a 28-year-old male armed with a .38-caliber handgun. Investigation determined that no shots were fired by any officer participating in the raid. The shooting suspect as well as four others, aged 47, 37, 28, and 20, were subsequently taken into custody and charged with the murder of the victim detective, who had 8 years of law enforcement service.

Kentucky August 1981

In a remote area of Simpson County, a 34-year-old Kentucky State Police detective was slain during the early afternoon of August 7. The 12-year veteran officer and his partner were searching for a marijuana crop behind an abandoned farm house when a male emerged from a tent and allegedly fired at the officers with a .30-caliber semiautomatic rifle. The detective was struck three times. Both officers returned fire, but the suspect escaped the scene. Due to the remote location, the detective bled to death from internal injuries while awaiting evacuation from the area. A 39-year-old male, who had prior arrests for narcotics violations, was later arrested and charged with murder.

DRUG-RELATED DEATHS OF LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICERS - 1980

Indiana January 1980

On January 9, a detective sergeant with the Henry County Sheriff's Department was shot and killed while attempting to execute a narcotics search warrant. During the evening hours, several law enforcement officers approached a residence to serve the warrant. After knocking, identifying themselves, and receiving no answer, the officers forced open the rear door and entered. Suddenly a 19-year-old male allegedly commenced firing a .22-caliber semiautomatic rifle within 12 feet of the officers. A deputy was seriously wounded in the chest, and the 40-year-old detective sergeant, who had over 6 years of law enforcement service, suffered fatal wounds. The suspect was subsequently taken into custody.

Texas January 1980

A 25-year-old patrolman with the City of Live Oak Police Department was killed on January 17 during a high-speed chase of a car containing two males. The officer radioed his position and a description of the fleeing vehicle whose driver had allegedly committed a traffic violation. While assisting officers were en route to his location, the victim reported that shots were being fired at him, and then made no further broadcasts. Within minutes, responding officers came upon an accident involving the victim's vehicle and an 18-wheel tractor trailer, both of which had burst into flames; the officer's body was found near his demolished patrol car. Witnesses at the scene confirmed that shots had been fired at the victim from the suspect auto. During the last of approximately 35 rounds that were fired at the victim from .38-caliber and 9-millimeter handguns, he apparently lost control of his vehicle and collided with the oncoming truck. Two males, who were brothers, subsequently surrendered to officers of the Texas Department of Public Safety and were charged with the officer's death. Reportedly, the suspects, aged 24 and 27, had not stopped for the officer because illegal drugs were in their car. The victim patrolman had nearly 2 years of law enforcement service.

Maryland February 1980

On February 2, a 22-year-old Prince Georges County Police Department officer was slain while attempting to arrest a male he believed to possess illegal drugs. The off-duty victim was working as a security guard at a local liquor store when he observed one of the store's customers displaying what appeared to be marijuana. Upon following the male from the store, the officer called for a backup unit on his portable police radio and then confronted the male, who ran from the scene. Apparently, when the officer caught the suspect, a struggle ensued during which the victim was disarmed and shot twice in the head with his own .380-caliber handgun. A 27-year-old suspect was arrested and charged with the officer's murder. The victim officer, who had 1 year of law enforcement service, was dead on arrival at a local hospital.

District of Columbia February 1980

A 29-year-old patrolman with the Washington, D. C., Metropolitan Police Department was shot and killed on February 11, while attempting an arrest. The patrolman and his partner were working a stakeout when they observed a narcotics buy and attempted to arrest a 27-year-old male. On approaching the male, the victim officer, who was wearing a protective vest, was fired upon with a .38-caliber handgun and felled by a shot to the abdomen. As he lay on the ground, the victim officer was then shot twice in the head. The assailant escaped, but was killed 4 days later during a shootout with Metropolitan police. The murdered patrolman had 5 years of law enforcement service.

Iowa April 1980

A 25-year-old Pella Police Department undercover patrolman was slain on April 9 while working with the Knoxville Police Department. Reportedly, the patrolman had purchased marijuana from a male in front of a Knoxville residence and had identified himself as a police officer when the male fled into the dwelling and slammed the door. Without notifying for backup officers, the 5-year veteran officer forced his way into the residence where he was allegedly confronted by the fleeing suspect's 17-year-old brother and was shot once in the chest at point-blank range with a 20-gauge shotgun. The victim officer, before dying, was able to contact backup officers who arrested the two brothers at the scene.

Oregon May 1980

On the evening of May 22, a sergeant with the Astoria Office of the Oregon State Police was slain in a wooded rural area near his home while searching for a male he suspected of growing marijuana there. Having previously observed the male in the vicinity of his residence, the officer rode his personally owned motorcycle to look for the man, and shortly after his departure, was found lying in the road. The 23-year veteran had been shot once in the chest with a .30-30 rifle from less than 50 feet away and twice in the head at closer range with a .22-caliber rifle. His motorcycle had been stolen. Six days later a 23-year-old male was arrested in connection with the 49-year-old state trooper's murder.

Louisiana June 1980

On the evening of June 4, an Intelligence Agent with the St. Mary Parish Sheriff's Department was slain while attempting to execute a search warrant. The 9-year veteran agent and several other officers went to a Morgan City apartment to serve the warrant and search for illegal drugs. Upon arrival, the officers positioned themselves at the front and rear of the ground-floor residence, with the victim officer, who was wearing a protective vest, being stationed by the front door. After knocking several times at the door, the victim finally received a response and identified himself. Hearing the security bolt being released from the door, he assumed a defensive position in front of it. However, as the door swung open, the subject fired shots from a .44-magnum handgun. One shot struck the victim agent in the face and another hit the door frame causing minor injuries to another officer. A deputy, who assumed the position where the victim had been standing, requested that the assailant give himself up. Although the 33-year-old male called out that he had put down his gun and was coming out, officers next to the front window of the apartment observed the man, still pointing the .44-magnum handgun, start to walk toward the door. Viewing this, the officers fired, fatally wounding the subject who was pronounced dead at the scene. The 33-year-old victim agent was dead on arrival at a local hospital.

California June 1980

While attempting an arrest on June 7, a 27-year-old officer with the Garden Grove Police Department was slain. The victim and three other officers had entered a local bar after identifying a vehicle in its parking lot as one being used by a fugitive wanted on narcotics, assault, and traffic warrants. Inside, the officers encountered the suspect and were escorting him from the establishment when the male allegedly jerked free, produced a .22-caliber semiautomatic handgun, and began firing. During the shooting, the victim officer received fatal wounds to the chest and two other officers and two customers were injured. Although the assailant fled the scene immediately after the incident, the 32-year-old male suspect was arrested approximately 2 hours later. The victim officer had 6 years of law enforcement experience.

Florida August 1980

A 30-year-old undercover narcotics detective with the St. Petersburg Police Department was shot to death during a narcotics transaction on August 18. Reportedly, a narcotics deal had been arranged between the slain officer and a suspected narcotics dealer, and it was agreed that the drug transfer would take place at a motel parking lot. At the predetermined location, the suspected drug dealer and another suspect met with the officers. After the victim officer's partner left the area to verify the drugs to be purchased, the second suspect allegedly fired three shots from a .38-caliber handgun at the undercover officer who was still seated in his vehicle. The 7-year veteran was struck by two of the shots and died shortly thereafter. The suspects took the money to be used in the transaction and both fled the scene. One of the suspects was apprehended several hours later, and it was determined that the murder and theft had been planned several days earlier; however, it is believed the suspects did not know that they were dealing with undercover police officers.

Louisiana November 1980

During the early morning hours of November 8, the body of a patrolman with the New Orleans Police Department was found lying in a ditch on a side street. Investigation determined that the victim officer had stopped two pedestrians suspected of dealing in narcotics. While the victim officer was in the process of calling for assistance on his portable radio, he approached the suspects on foot and was shot once in the neck with a .38-caliber handgun. On November 13 in connection with the victim's murder, officers with the New Orleans Police Department attempted to serve arrest and search warrants during raids at two separate residences. In both incidents, the officers were fired upon and their return gunfire killed both suspects, aged 27 and 26. The 23-year-old victim patrolman had nearly 2 years of law enforcement service.

New York December 1980

On the evening of December 5, a criminal investigator with the New York State Police was slain in Corning while working undercover surveillance with his partner. Following a drug transaction, the two officers were in an unmarked patrol unit following the vehicle of two suspects. In an attempt to avoid the surveillance, the subjects reportedly pulled their vehicle into the police cruiser causing a minor collision. As their vehicle stopped, the 35-year-old officer and his partner were immediately struck by blasts from a 12-gauge double-barreled shotgun allegedly fired from the subjects' auto. The victim was fatally wounded in the back, but his injured partner was able to return fire and radio for assistance Two suspects, who were brothers aged 30 and 33, were arrested by responding officers. They were charged with first-degree murder in connection with the 7-year veteran officer's slaying.

DRUG-RELATED DEATHS OF LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICERS - 1979

Nevada March 1979

A 37-year-old Agent of the Nevada Division of Investigation and Narcotics was shot and killed in a joint undercover narcotics operation with the California Bureau of Criminal Identification and Investigation. Prior to the incident, the agent arranged to purchase drugs from a suspected dealer and went to a predetermined California location under surveillance by a backup team from the California Bureau. Reportedly the dealer and an accomplice showed the drugs but suddenly changed the scene of the "buy" to another location, since they apparently had been forewarned that the purchaser might be a "narc." At the second location, although able to complete the transaction and identifying himself as a law enforcement officer, the agent was allegedly shot by the 19-year-old dealer with a .22-caliber derringer. The suspect was subsequently arrested by the backup officers. The victim, who had 10 years of law enforcement experience, died at a local hospital from a wound to the chest.

California April 1979

A deputy with the Los Angeles County, California, Sheriff's Department was shot after stopping to investigate a suspicious situation. The victim and his partner exited their patrol vehicle and started to approach five males congregating on the sidewalk. The deputies recognized a couple of the individuals as persons previously arrested for narcotics violations. During this time, containers with what appeared to be narcotics were allegedly thrown into the street and the suspects began to run. Reportedly, one of the suspects went into a nearby apartment and secured a .22-caliber rifle with which the victim deputy was shot in the upper right back. The wound proved fatal to the 31-year-old, 10-year veteran deputy in spite of the fact that he was wearing a protective vest at the time of the incident. A 24-year-old male suspect was taken into custody.

California May 1979

While serving a narcotics search warrant, a 9-year veteran of the Los Angeles County, California, Sheriff's Department was fatally shot. Law enforcement agencies from three jurisdictions went to a residence in La Puente, knocked at the door, identified themselves, and advised they were there to serve the warrant. When no one responded but the officers heard sounds from within the dwelling, they forced the door open. As the first officer entered the house, he reportedly saw one subject with a shotgun pointed at the door and jumped from the line of fire. However, when the victim deputy entered, he was shot in the chest with a 20-

Nevada June 1979

A 32-year-old patrolman assigned as an undercover detective with the Reno, Nevada, Police Department was stabbed to death during a narcotics operation. The officer, supplied with marked money, made arrangements to buy drugs. As surveillance units monitored their activity, the unarmed officer picked up subject shortly after midnight and the two drove to another location where the substance was supposedly hidden. However, due to equipment difficulty, surveillance officers were unable to monitor any conversation from this point. Reportedly the exchange was taking place when the 20-year-old male subject, along with one 16-year-old and two 18-year-old males who had been hiding at the scene, allegedly attacked the officer. In the ensuing struggle with his assailants, the victim, who had 7 years of law enforcement experience, was stabbed in the chest, abdomen, and back. Two of the subjects allegedly took the money from the officer whose body was transported to another site and buried. All four were subsequently arrested and charged with murder, kidnapping, and robbery. Two other 20-year-old males were also arrested as accessories since they allegedly helped some of the subjects escape. Three knives, the apparent murder weapons, were recovered in connection with this case.

Pennsylvania June 1979

While assisting in a narcotics-related arrest, a 35-year-old trooper on special assignment with the Pennsylvania State Police was shot and killed at New Castle, Pennsylvania. Having arrived at a private residence, several law enforcement officers from the Pennsylvania State Police and the Youngstown, Ohio, Police Department were advised that two subjects with a vehicle were positioned at the rear of the house. As some officers covered the dwelling, the victim and others progressed to the rear of the property. One subject, standing beside the open passenger door of the vehicle, was in view as the approaching officers, in plainclothes, identified themselves. The male allegedly turned toward the officers and fired twice with a .357-magnum handgun, striking the trooper who fell to the ground as the remaining officers took cover. The subjects managed to flee the scene amid the officers' return fire. One suspect, a 28-year-old male, later surrendered, and a second subject, 30 years old, was taken into custody at his residence which was under surveillance. The victim, with 8 years of law enforcement experience, was transported to the hospital where he died of fatal wounds to the abdomen and back.

Louisiana July 1979

In the early morning hours, a 23-year-old sergeant with the Saint Tammany Parish, Louisiana, Sheriff's Office, working on an undercover narcotics investigation, was shot and killed. The sergeant and a middle-man had been told to go to a residence to receive the drugs they had previously purchased. When the officer and his companion arrived at the house, two male subjects got in the rear seat of the vehicle. Until this time the sergeant's car had been under surveillance and his conversation monitored; however, as the vehicle traveled from the residence to a new location, contact was lost. At a New Orleans' housing project, the officer pulled the car over so the subjects could obtain the drugs. Exiting the vehicle, one subject, without warning, allegedly shot the victim in the head and his companion in the shoulder with a .38-caliber handgun. Two suspects, aged 27 and 25, were later taken into custody and charged with murder and possession of narcotics. The sergeant, with 3 years of law enforcement service, was pronounced dead at the scene.

Arizona November 1979

A 46-year-old agent with the Arizona Department of Public Safety was shot and killed while attempting an undercover narcotics buy at a Tucson airport. The 22-year veteran officer was shot once in the chest with a .32-caliber handgun and died shortly afterwards at a local hospital. One suspect, a 27-year-old male, was arrested and subsequently charged with first-degree murder in connection with the agent's death.

Oregon December 1979

An attempt to serve a narcotics search warrant resulted in the shooting death of a Portland, Oregon, Police Bureau officer. The victim and several other officers had gone to a residence, which served as the clubhouse for a motorcycle gang, to serve the warrant. After announcing their presence and advising they had a warrant, the officers broke the dwelling's front door open and were immediately met with gunfire from the subjects inside. During the shooting, the victim officer, a 27-year-old with 3 years of law enforcement service, was wounded in the head with a 16-gauge shotgun. He succumbed from the wound approximately 2 weeks later. One male suspect, aged 29, was arrested at the scene.

DRUG-RELATED DEATHS OF LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICERS - 1978

Texas February 1978

With over 19 years of law enforcement experience, a 41-year-old Ranger of the Texas Department of Public Safety, was on detective assignment and assisting in an undercover narcotics operation when slain. The male Ranger and other law enforcement officers surrounded a residence where an undercover narcotics buy was being attempted. Upon hearing a single shot from inside the dwelling, the victim, who was stationed at the back of the house, partially forced open the rear door and started to enter. The 27-year-old male subject fired a .38-caliber handgun through the door, fatally wounding the Ranger in the head. Other officers at the scene apprehended the subject who was subsequently charged, convicted, and given a life sentence for the Ranger's slaying.

California April 1978

Pursuit of a subject fleeing from a dwelling reportedly being used for the illegal manufacture of drugs culminated in the death of a Los Angeles County, California, Sheriff's Department deputy. When the victim and a second deputy entered the reported drug factory, they separated in order to follow suspects who were attempting to escape. During the foot chase, one subject apparently gained control of the victim's .38-caliber service handgun, shot him in the head, and fled with the weapon. A 19-year-old male was subsequently arrested, charged, and convicted in connection with the 27-year-old deputy's death. The victim officer had 5 years of law enforcement experience.

Texas June 1978

While effecting a narcotics arrest, a 28-year-old officer with the Houston, Texas, Police Department was slain and a second officer injured. Following the arrest of a male subject, aged 42, and two female companions, the officers had returned to their patrol vehicles with the suspects. During the subsequent searching procedure, the male assailant allegedly produced a .38-caliber handgun firing at both officers. The victim was shot in the head and abdomen and his partner sustained gunshot wounds in the arm and back. Both officers were able to return fire, injuring the subject. Several hours later, the victim, who had over 3 years of law enforcement service, died. All three suspects were arrested and the male assailant has been charged with capital murder.

California August 1978

While attempting to serve a search warrant for narcotics at a private residence, a Stockton, California, Police Department patrolman was slain. When the victim and three fellow officers, all in plain clothes, arrived at the residence, the victim proceeded to cover the dwelling's rear exit while the other officers went to the front door. The three officers repeatedly knocked on the door, stated their identities and announced they had a search warrant, but received no answer although they could hear a voice and movement from within. As the officers attempted to forcibly enter the dwelling, a shot was suddenly fired through the door, wounding two of them. Immediately the three took cover, and while doing so, heard a second shot inside the house. Subsequently, a 22-year-old male suspect reportedly shouted that he wanted to surrender, opened the front door, pushed a gun out, and then came out himself. Upon entering the

Virginia September 1978

A 37-year-old sergeant with the James City County, Virginia, Sheriff's Department was slain while searching an automobile. The victim officer observed the automobile containing three occupants parked in the back lot of a local motel and stopped to investigate. After obtaining the driver's operators license, the sergeant noticed a small bag of marijuana on the vehicle's back seat, confiscated it, and requested permission to search the automobile, which was granted. Finding a second, larger bag of marijuana, the victim was continuing his search when the vehicle's driver allegedly obtained the sergeant's .357-magnum service handgun and shot him once in the head, fatally wounding him. A 19-year-old male suspect has been apprehended in connection with the incident. The deceased officer had 9 years of law enforcement experience.

Texas November 1978

A detective with the San Antonio, Texas, Police Department and his partner, a deputy with the Bexar County, Texas, Sheriff's Department, were attempting to execute a narcotic search warrant when, without warning, the detective was shot and killed. Several law enforcement officers covered the outside of the apartment building as the two approached to serve the warrant. Allegedly, as they knocked on the door to the unit occupied by a 28-year-old male, the officers were fired upon through the closed door with a 9-millimeter automatic weapon. The 31-year-old detective, who had 9 years of law enforcement experience, suffered a fatal head wound and his partner was injured. Other officers at the scene subsequently apprehended the male subject and charged him in the victim's death.

DRUG-RELATED DEATHS OF LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICERS - 1977

District of Columbia April 1977

During a narcotics investigation, a Washington, D. C., Metropolitan Police Department investigator, with more than five years of law enforcement experience, was slain. The 26-year-old member of the vice squad and his partner were working in an undercover capacity when the shooting occurred. Following an alleged narcotics purchase, the officers arrested a suspect. While his partner escorted the suspect to their vehicle, the investigator went to the rear of a building to search for possibly discarded narcotics. There he was shot once in the back of the head with a .22-caliber handgun. He succumbed to the wound the following day. A 57-year-old male subject was later arrested and charged with the murder.

New York April 1977

A five-year veteran officer with the New York City, New York, Police Department died as a result of a gunshot wound he received while attempting a narcotics arrest. The officer and his partner, both in plain clothes, got an anonymous tip that a drug buy was taking place at a local tavern. After assisting uniformed officers in the arrest of one suspect, they followed a second individual outside the tavern. A struggle ensued, and the 24-year-old male subject allegedly obtained possession of the partner's service weapon, shooting both officers. The subject fled to his residence where he was apprehended that evening. Four days later, the victim succumbed to the wound at a local hospital.

California May 1977

Two veteran patrolmen with the El Centro, California, Police Department were slain after responding to a disturbance call. In an effort to obtain narcotics, three individuals went to a residence and attempted to awaken the occupant. The commotion disturbed neighbors who notified the police, and two officers were dispatched in separate vehicles. One patrolman, 29 years of age, arrived at the residence, approached the group, and was shot in the chest, allegedly by a 22-year-old male armed with a .30-caliber rifle. Subsequently, the second responding patrolman, aged 42, observed the assailant and ordered him to halt. The subject allegedly fired the rifle at the officer fatally wounding him in the head. The subject was taken into custody at the scene by a third responding officer.

Oklahoma June 1977

A Washita County, Oklahoma, Sheriff's Office deputy, with less than two years of law enforcement service, was shot and killed while serving an arrest warrant on a juvenile. The 38-year-old deputy, accompanied by another officer, attempted a drug arrest that resulted in an altercation with the alleged violator's stepfather. Upon gaining entry to the youth's home, the officers met resistance, and the stepfather, 29 years old, confronted them with a .38-caliber handgun. Allegedly, he shot the deputy in the back and wounded the other officer, who returned gunfire striking the subject. The subject was apprehended shortly after the incident.

Georgia September 1977

While on special assignment in a high-crime area, a 29-year-old patrolman with the Atlanta, Georgia, Police Department was slain. Reportedly, the officer and his partner, both dressed in plain clothes, were on patrol in a police van when they noticed three males attempting to break into an automobile. The officers confronted the individuals and while searching them, discovered that one was in possession of suspected narcotics. Without warning, another of the males allegedly produced a .380-caliber handgun, shot the seven-year veteran officer in the head, and continued firing his weapon at the officers. As the assailant and his companions, aged 15 and 18, fled, the victim's partner returned gunfire and inflicted wounds to the subject and one accomplice. Subsequently, all three were apprehended near the scene by responding officers. The victim patrolman and his assailant both succumbed to the wounds they received during the incident.

DRUG-RELATED DEATHS OF LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICERS - 1976

Indiana March 1976

While attempting to execute a search warrant at a local residence, an Indianapolis, Indiana, Police Department patrolman was slain. The 29-year-old patrolman and two other officers from the narcotics division attempted to gain entrance to the residence. Gunshots were fired from within the residence, and the patrolman was fatally wounded in the head and arm with bullets from a .32-caliber handgun. The other officers returned the gunfire killing the 19-year-old male assailant. Three other suspects were apprehended at the scene. The five-year veteran patrolman was dead upon arrival at a local hospital.

North Carolina April 1976

While attempting to execute a search warrant, a Durham, North Carolina, Police Department investigator was slain. After knocking on the door and identifying themselves several times, the 25-year-old investigator and other officers of the narcotics unit heard someone running inside. As the investigator forced his way into the residence, the 20-year-old male subject allegedly fired a .32-caliber handgun hitting the investigator in the chest. The subject was taken into custody by officers at the scene. The investigator had been a law enforcement officer for over two years.

Texas April 1976

An eleven-year veteran patrolman with the Houston, Texas, Police Department was slain attempting to make an arrest of a narcotics suspect. The 35-year-old patrolman and three other officers, all assigned to the narcotics division, were staked out at a local motel parking lot awaiting the arrival of the subject. As the 46-year-old male subject approached the motel, the patrolman identified himself. The subject immediately turned and allegedly fired a .32-caliber handgun striking the patrolman fatally in the chest. The other three officers returned the gunfire killing the subject.

Puerto Rico July 1976

While assigned to an undercover role in a narcotics investigation, a 23-year-old agent with the Police of Puerto Rico was shot and killed. The agent and another individual were seated in a car when an automobile containing two occupants stopped nearby. Abruptly, the driver walked toward the agent's vehicle shouting that he knew the agent was an undercover agent, and the man who was accompanying him was an informant. He proceeded to strike the agent several times with his fists. When the agent attempted to obtain his service weapon from beneath the car seat, the 26-year-old male subject allegedly drew a .38-caliber handgun and shot the agent in the chest. Although the agent returned the gunfire, the subject made good his escape. The agent, a law enforcement officer for one year, managed to walk to a nearby home for senior citizens where he collapsed and died. The subject was apprehended the following day.

Texas July 1976

As he attempted to apprehend two narcotic suspects, a Laredo, Texas, Police Department patrolman was shot and killed. The 27-year-old patrolman responded to an assistance call from another officer who had observed two males transporting narcotics. Enroute the patrolman spotted the suspects' vehicle, with a police car in pursuit, and signaled it to stop. The suspects stopped their vehicle with the patrolman's unit in front and the other officer's car to the rear. When the patrolman approached the suspects' vehicle, he was shot in the chest with a .38-caliber handgun. He returned the gunfire as he ran past the suspects' vehicle to take cover. Both officers continued to exchange gunfire with the suspects until the patrolman collapsed on the ground while reloading his service weapon. The patrolman, a law enforcement officer for over three years, was dead upon arrival at a local hospital. Both suspects, 32 and 28 years of age, were apprehended shortly thereafter, and 300 pounds of marijuana in their possession were seized.

Utah July 1976

While attempting to serve an arrest warrant, a nine-year veteran agent with the Narcotic and Liquor Law Enforcement Division of the Utah Department of Public Safety was shot and killed. The 32-year-old agent and several other officers went to the subject's residence to execute the warrant. An undercover officer was present at the residence in an effort to purchase some narcotics from the subject. Upon receiving a signal from the undercover officer, the agent and a second officer approached the suspect's residence. The agent knocked on the front door, identified himself and the second officer, and ordered the subject to open the door. When he refused, the officers forced entry into the residence where they pursued him into a bedroom. In the ensuing exchange of gunfire, the agent was shot fatally in the neck and shoulder with a 12-gauge shotgun, and the 28-year-old male suspect was mortally wounded by a gunshot wound to the stomach.

California August 1976

A twelve-year veteran patrolman, 35 years of age, with the Los Angeles, California, Police Department was slain while executing a search warrant in a narcotics investigation. The victim and other officers of the Narcotics Division entered the suspect's residence and pursued him into an adjoining room where he produced a .357-magnum handgun and allegedly fired one shot striking the victim in the chest. One shot fired by the victim at his assailant missed. The officers apprehended the 31-year-old male suspect and five other individuals at the scene.

Louisiana August 1976

While searching a residence for narcotics, a Jefferson Parish, Louisiana, Sheriff's Office deputy, with three years of law enforcement experience, was shot and killed. As the 25-year-old deputy and four other narcotics officers began their search, the subject, who lived across the street from the residence, entered and allegedly shot the deputy in the back with a .22-caliber rifle. The 24-year-old male subject was apprehended at his residence where a quantity of heroin and marijuana was confiscated.

Texas August 1976

A Port Arthur, Texas, Police Department detective, with four years of law enforcement experience, was slain while attempting to serve a search warrant for narcotics at a local residence. The 27-year-old detective and four other officers knocked on the door and identified themselves. In response to the knock, gunshots were fired through the door from a .38-caliber handgun hitting the victim in the chest. The other officers forced their way into the residence where they apprehended a 19-year-old female who has been charged with the shooting.

Illinois September 1976

A ten-year veteran patrolman with the Chicago, Illinois, Police Department was shot and killed attempting to make an arrest in a narcotics crime. After learning that narcotics were being sold at a local building, the 31-year-old patrolman and two other officers went there to conduct a surveillance. The officers observed a suspicious transaction between the 33-year-old male subject and a second individual. As the officers approached the steps of the building to make an arrest, the subject allegedly fired a .41-magnum handgun striking the victim patrolman in the head. The other officers returned the gunfire, and the subject retreated into the building. Shortly thereafter, other officers arrived at the scene, and the subject was taken into custody.

Bogota, Colombia December 1976

A Special Agent with the Drug Enforcement Administration, stationed in Bogota, Colombia, was shot and killed in the line of duty by an emotionally disturbed individual. Investigation indicates the 25-year-old male suspect, a United States citizen, entered the Agent's office to speak with him about drug trafficking information the suspect had provided earlier which had proven worthless. The suspect became upset when no action had been taken on the information. He ran amok and began firing a .38-caliber handgun striking the 38-year-old Agent fatally in the back. The suspect shot and killed himself as his arrest became imminent. The Agent had 15 years of law enforcement service.

California 1976

While conducting an undercover narcotics investigation in 1976, a nine-year veteran officer with the Whittier, California, Police Department sustained a broken neck which resulted in his death in 1977. The 34-year-old corporal, wearing a monitoring device, attempted to purchase a large quantity of marijuana from a female college student. On meeting the officer at her dormitory, the subject accused him of being a narcotics agent and indicated she had called campus security. At this time, the officer stated he did not wish any problems and would leave. As he left the building, his partner, parked a short distance away, noticed two men run into the dormitory. Over the monitor, the corporal asked his partner to pick him up a block away to prevent revealing his true identity. As the corporal walked toward the meeting place, his partner saw the previously observed men running behind the victim officer. The two individuals, allegedly, grabbed the unarmed victim and propelled him head first into a parked pick-up truck. Both men were apprehended by the partner, and the victim officer was transported to a local hospital.

DRUG-RELATED DEATHS OF LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICERS - 1975

Alabama March 1975

After responding to a disturbance call, a Montgomery, Alabama, Police Department patrolman, a white male 28 years of age, was shot and killed. The subject's mother contacted the police department to request that her son be arrested for creating a disturbance at her residence. A detective arrived at the scene and was advised that the subject had drugs in his possession. While the detective was attempting to handcuff the subject, the patrolman and a second officer arrived at the scene. They observed the detective struggling with the subject, a Negro male 28 years of age. Both officers attempted to assist the detective. During the struggle, the patrolman fell to the ground. At this time, the subject allegedly obtained the detective's .38 caliber service weapon and began firing at the officers. While he was lying on the ground, the patrolman with over one year of law enforcement service was fatally wounded in the chest. The second officer was wounded in the arm. The subject fled the scene on foot and was apprehended shortly thereafter.

Pennsylvania October 1975

While attempting to effect an arrest, a Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, Police Department officer was shot and killed. The seven-year veteran officer, a Negro male 32 years of age, was assigned to the narcotics unit. He made a narcotics purchase from an individual at a local residence. The officer met with his partner and returned to the residence to effect the arrest.

Colorado December 1975

After stopping a vehicle for a traffic violation, a patrolman with over four years of law enforcement service with the Colorado State Patrol was shot and killed. The patrolman, a white male 34 years of age, stopped a vehicle which was later determined to contain 300 pounds of marijuana. The patrolman was found dead near his patrol vehicle on the side of a highway. He had been shot in the chest with his own .357 magnum service weapon. Two subjects, white males 35 and 26 years of age, were subsequently apprehended after a high-speed chase by responding officers.

Guam December 1975

A Special Agent with the Drug Enforcement Administration was shot and killed in Dededo, Guam, while attempting to effect an arrest. The Agent, a white male 32 years of age, was working undercover on a drug transaction. The Agent, assisted by other officers, met the subject at a prearranged site in a local shopping center parking lot. The subject, a white male 23 years of age, was arrested, handcuffed, and placed in the back seat of the Agent's vehicle. The Agent and his partner entered the vehicle and proceeded to drive out of the parking lot. The subject, whose hands were handcuffed behind him, was able to produce a .38 caliber handgun and fire it toward the Agents in the front seat of the vehicle. The victim Agent was struck in the head and his partner was wounded in both arms. The victim Agent's partner and other officers subdued the subject.

DRUG-RELATED DEATHS OF LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICERS - 1974

Arizona April 1974

While attempting to effect a narcotics arrest, two United States Customs Service officers were slain in a gun-battle with a white male subject, 43 years of age. The two Customs officers were maintaining surveillance in Cochise County on a road known and much used for narcotics smuggling. Investigation indicates that the officers observed the oncoming lights of a vehicle approaching on the same road where they were maintaining surveillance and attempted to stop this vehicle. A chase ensued and the officers' bodies and the subject's body were found approximately two miles from the surveillance area. One officer, a white male 32 years of age, sustained fatal wounds to the chest from his 12 gauge shotgun. The second officer, a white male 27 years of age, was shot three times in the chest with a .32 caliber handgun. The subject was fatally wounded in the back with the 12 gauge shotgun. One officer was an eight-year veteran law enforcement officer and the second officer had six years of law enforcement service.

Michigan April 1974

A sergeant with the Highland Park, Michigan, Police Department, a white male 49 years of age, was shot and killed while executing a narcotics warrant. The sergeant, his partner and three other officers from the Detroit Police Department arrived at the subject's residence, identified themselves and received no response. The sergeant and three of the other officers forced entry into the residence and arrested two individuals while one officer went to the rear of the residence. The sergeant and another officer proceeded to a bedroom in the back of the residence. The sergeant opened the bedroom door and was shot in the chest with a .38 caliber handgun. The second officer was wounded in the left arm, chest, and abdomen. The subject, a Negro male 23 years of age, exited the bedroom by jumping from a window and was subsequently apprehended. The sergeant had been a law enforcement officer for over twenty-four years.

Pennsylvania April 1974

A sergeant with the Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, Police Department for over ten years died from gunshot wounds received while executing a search and seizure warrant. The sergeant, a Negro male 30 years of age, and three other plain-clothes officers were assigned to a narcotics unit. The four officers contacted the subject at his residence to serve the warrant. The subject, a Negro male 23 years of age, spoke to the officers from a second floor window of his residence. The officers identified themselves and stated their purpose to the subject who withdrew into the house. The sergeant entered the front door and was ascending the stairs when he was shot in the head and arm with a .38 caliber handgun. The other officers slightly wounded the subject and took him into custody.

Florida May 1974

A sergeant with the Dade County, Florida, Public Safety Department, a Negro male 33 years of age, was shot and killed while on special assignment. The sergeant observed a Negro male subject, a suspected narcotics user, and confronted him. A scuffle ensued and the sergeant was shot in the chest with a .32 caliber handgun. The subject, 22 years of age, was apprehended shortly thereafter. He later committed suicide by hanging himself in his jail cell.

Arizona October 197

While attempting to effect a narcotics arrest, a detective, a white male 27 years of age, with the Tucson, Arizona, Police Department for five years was shot and killed. The detective, working undercover, had arranged to purchase a quantity of narcotics. He arrived at the apartment where the purchase was to take place and tested a sample. The detective returned to his vehicle and then attempted to reenter the apartment along with other officers. The detective was granted admittance to the apartment by one individual who immediately attempted to close the door on the other officers, causing them to force entry. The detective followed the subject, a Negro male 23 years of age, into the bedroom. An exchange of gunfire occurred and the detective was fatally wounded in the chest with a .380 caliber handgun. The subject and two occupants of the apartment were wounded and taken into custody. The detective was transported to a local hospital where he died shortly after arrival.

Texas October 1974

A Texas Department of Public Safety narcotics agent, a white male 40 years of age, was shot and killed while attempting to effect a narcotics arrest. The agent, a twelve-year law enforcement veteran, was attempting to purchase narcotics from two white male subjects, 41 and 38 years of age. Investigation indicates that the agent met the two subjects and was then driven to a nearby rural area. The agent's body was found in a roadside park near George West, Texas. The agent had been shot in the chest and abdomen with a .38 caliber handgun. Both subjects were arrested and charged with the killing.

New Jersey November 1974

A detective, a white male 34 years of age, with the Union City, New Jersey, Police Department for over five years was fatally wounded investigating a suspicious person. The detective and his partner on narcotics surveillance observed the subject, a white male 36 years of age, acting in a suspicious manner. The officers followed him into a taxi company office to determine his identity. A gunbattle ensued, and the detective sustained a fatal chest wound from a .38 caliber handgun. The detective's partner, after receiving a gunshot wound in the leg, shot and killed the subject. The subject was an escapee from a Florida prison where he was under sentence for assault with intent to kill a police officer.

Michigan 1974

A Detroit, Michigan, Police Department officer died as a result of gunshot wounds received while executing a narcotics warrant in 1974. The five-year veteran officer, a white male 26 years of age, and four other officers, including two Highland Park Police Department officers, arrived at the subject's residence. The officers knocked on the front door of the residence, identified themselves and subsequently forced entry into the residence. They arrested two individuals while one officer covered the rear of the residence. The victim officer and a Highland Park Police Department sergeant proceeded to a bedroom in the back of the residence. The sergeant opened the bedroom door and observed the subject attempting to climb out of the bedroom window. The subject, a Negro male 23 years of age, turned toward the officers and began firing a .38 caliber handgun. The sergeant was shot in the chest and was dead upon arrival at a local hospital. The victim officer was shot in the left arm and abdomen and succumbed to these wounds in 1975. The subject exited the bedroom by jumping from a window and was apprehended.

DRUG-RELATED DEATHS OF LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICERS - 1973

Maryland April 1973

The Baltimore, Maryland, Police Department advised a patrolman, white male 24 years of age, was shot and killed in an attempt to apprehend a subject. The subject, a Negro male 24 years of age, had been arrested by the victim officer on a narcotics violation one week prior to the incident. The officer apparently observed the subject driving a vehicle. The subject attempted to elude the officer but was stopped shortly thereafter by him. An argument and struggle ensued between the officer and the subject. During the struggle, the subject gained possession of the officer's .38 caliber service revolver and allegedly shot him six times in the head. The officer died at the scene. The subject was apprehended immediately after the killing by other officers.

Florida August 1973

An officer of the Drug Enforcement Administration, a white male 28 years of age, was shot and killed while attempting to make a narcotics arrest. The victim and three other officers entered a night club in Fort Lauderdale, Florida, to locate a subject who had sold narcotics to the victim officer. The officers located the subject. Shortly thereafter, a crowd of individuals gathered and surrounded the officers in their official vehicle. The crowd became hostile and several gunshots were fired. The victim officer received a fatal gunshot wound to the back of the neck from a .32 caliber handgun. The subject, a Negro male 25 years of age, was wounded and subsequently apprehended.

California November 1973

An investigator of the Los Angeles, California, Police Department, a white male 32 years of age, was shot and killed while conducting a narcotics investigation. The officer was investigating two subjects who were attempting to sell narcotics at a motel. One subject allegedly drew a .25 caliber handgun and shot the officer in the stomach. Other officers nearby surrounded the area and apprehended the two subjects, white males 26 and 24 years of age.

Puerto Rico November 1973

A detective, white male 32 years of age, from the Puerto Rico Police Department, was shot and killed while attempting to arrest a subject during a narcotics investigation. The detective and other officers approached the subject's residence to make an arrest. The subject, a white male 49 years of age, allegedly opened gunfire with a .38 caliber handgun. The detective received a fatal head wound as he attempted to take cover near the residence. The subject surrendered to other officers and was charged with the killing of the detective.

Maryland December 1973

A private of the Montgomery County, Maryland, Police Department was shot and killed while attempting to make a narcotics arrest. The victim officer, a white male 25 years of age, and a second officer attempted to arrest two subjects selling narcotics at a motel. One subject allegedly drew a .32 caliber handgun from a paper bag and opened fire striking both officers. The victim officer received a fatal wound in his back. Other officers arrived and shot one subject, a Negro male 23 years of age, who subsequently died. The second subject, a Negro male 20 years of age, was apprehended at the scene of the shooting.

California December 1973

A field supervisor of the California State Bureau of Narcotics Enforcement, a white male 43 years of age, was shot and killed after attempting to make a narcotics arrest in Benicia, California. The victim officer was working in cooperation with local police departments in conducting an investigation into the narcotic activities of three subjects. The three subjects attempted to sell narcotics to the victim officer, and he immediately placed them under arrest. A scuffle ensued, and the victim officer was shot in the chest with a nine millimeter handgun. Two subjects, white males 21 and 19 years of age, were immediately apprehended by backup officers. The third subject, a white male 20 years of age, fled the scene and was apprehended by local authorities.

DRUG-RELATED DEATHS OF LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICERS - 1972

New York October 1972

On September 25, a former agent with the Drug Enforcement Administration died as a result of a wound received approximately 10 years earlier. Two dealers met with agents in a New York City motel room on October 12, 1972, to count the money to be used in a cocaine "buy" and arranged to return with the drugs in a couple of hours. Shortly thereafter, the two males returned to the room, reportedly to seize the money, where a gun battle ensued. During the exchange of gunfire, the two assailants and one agent were fatally shot. The then 31-year-old agent received wounds to the leg and neck from a .38-caliber handgun. Since that time, he had been paralyzed from the neck down.

Illinois November 1972

The Illinois Bureau of Investigation advised that a narcotics investigator, a white male, 30 years old, was fatally attacked while enroute to work. The officer's body was found in his vehicle with multiple stab wounds and his throat cut from ear to ear. The officer's service revolver was still in his holster. A white male subject, 25 years old, was subsequently apprehended and charged with this killing. The subject had previously been arrested by the victim officer on a drug charge.